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EASTERN

F.O.
371

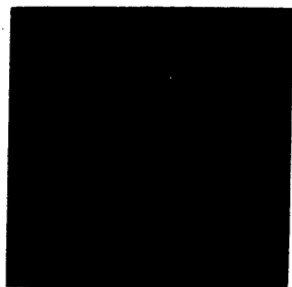
1948

PALESTINE ✓

FILE No. 1260

LS pp 9686

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68654

1948

E

E 1260

2

PALESTINE

29 JAN 1948

Registry Number

E1260/1260/31

FROM

W A C Watkinson

No.

60

Dated

25/1/48

Received in Registry

27 Jan 29 -

Entry of British Nationals into Palestine
Transmit copy of Paragraph from M/C n 21 of
Jan 13. in which he raises the question of
the further admission of British Nationals
to Palestine.
Also to view on subject.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

References.

68654

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Ref. W.A.P. Watkinson 60
from M. Reith.
Feb 21

(Action completed.)

G.L.H. 21/2

(Index.)

~~W.A.P. Watkinson 60~~
14/2/48

Next Paper.

E 3170

I should say we would not want to encourage people to go to Palestine before the end of the mandate. But all reasonable cases should be accepted. Draft.

Prop. first

H. S. Benin
Feb. 9

I understand that the Passport Office have already in force a strict control.

Back
12.2.48

Passport Office

At the moment we only grant the special endorsement, required by BSS entering

29470 F.O.P.

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Palestine, when we have received an authority from the Dept of Migration at Jerusalem. This authority is generally only given when the journey is of urgent business importance or when there are strong compassionate grounds. Passport office would like to be advised as to the policy to be followed when the British administration leaves Palestine as presumably the control of the grant of passport facilities for Palestine to B.S.S. will then have to be derived from this end

Jasper
17/2/48

Our present practice follows instructions from Palestine & seems to exercise adequate control over the entry of B.S.S. in present circumstances. It would however be desirable to have, if possible in advance, some indication of the line to be taken when British adminⁿ ceases.

H. Capewell
17/2/48

J.P.P. 40.6. Haddenham 10. 75126/48 L.H. Keeley 10/2

Draft to Co.
D.S. Beins
Feb. 18
B. 19/2

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8. Clear.

SAVING.

SP/473/47 3

From the High Commissioner for Palestine.

To the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

REC'D
20 JAN 1948
SECRETARY

Date... 13th January 1948.

No. 2. 21 Saving. SECRET. PRIORITY.

Subject is future of British nationals in Palestine other than Government officials, police and army and their families.

2. In 1940 the number of British nationals excluding Government officers and members of H.M. Forces and their wives and minor children in this country was 6,000 (most of them Jews), a high proportion of whom were from *Mena*. You should know that in response to an inquiry by the doctor in charge of the St. John's ophthalmic hospital an undertaking has been given that in event of it being necessary at the time of the withdrawal of the administration to evacuate British subjects in civilian employment or service from Palestine arrangements will be made to do so. It may be assumed that most "technical" British subjects who are in fact Jews and Arabs will not apply for evacuation, but they will probably apply to the British representative for protection and assistance if they believe themselves in personal danger or are in financial difficulties.

3. Having these considerations in mind I should be glad to know whether His Majesty's Government has any wishes regarding the further admission of British nationals to Palestine. The Tel Aviv - Petah Tiqva area is now considered safe for British residents and ordinarily I should have been disposed to authorise admission to any British subject who has legitimate cause for application and for whom accommodation is available. But it may be held desirable to keep admissions to a minimum.

4. One facet of this problem is missionaries. It is often necessary for them if they are to pursue their calling to live in isolated places, and no special protection can be afforded to these even while the mandate still operates.

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Encls 4
E

Colonial Office,
Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

My Reference 75136/48.

Your Reference

27th January, 1948.

Dear Beeley,

E 1260
29 JAN 1948

Entry of British nationals
into Palestine.

I enclose a copy of a savingram from the High Commissioner for Palestine in which he raises the question whether in the circumstances described therein, H.M.G. would wish to consider the question of the further admission of British nationals to Palestine. There is, of course, at present, some restriction on the entry of British subjects since entry is controlled by the requirement of a special endorsement for Palestine which is only granted to British subjects who have legitimate reasons for entry into Palestine and for whom accommodation is available.

We should be grateful to have the early views of the Foreign Office on this question.

Yours sincerely,

W.A.C. Mathieson
(W.A.C. Mathieson)

H. BEELEY, ESQ., C.B.E.,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

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12 FEB 1948

pc p.w.S

Colonial Office,
Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

My Reference 75136/48.

Your Reference

E1260 1260 7

10th February, 1948.

Dear Beeley,

INDEXED

Entry of British nationals
into Palestine.

Would you please refer to my letter of the 27th January, enclosing a copy of savingram No. 21 of the 13th January from the High Commissioner for Palestine on the above question.

We have now received a telegraphic reminder from the High Commissioner, copy enclosed, and any action you could take to expedite Foreign Office views on this matter would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

(W.A.C. Mathieson)

H. BEELEY, ESQ., C.B.E.,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

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6

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A, Cunningham)

D. 5th February, 1948.
R. 6th " " " 07.00 hrs.

No. 296.

My secret savingram No. 2 of 13th
January.

Grateful for an early indication of your
views regarding admission and evacuation of
non-official British subjects.

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Registry
No. E1260/1260/31.

J.G.S.B

Draft.

to

WHL
Mr. Mathieson.
Colonial Office.

Top Secret.
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

20/2
21/2

From: *5/2*

Mr. Beith.

see minutes
[Signature]
Control Passport
Office first.

JB RN. 9

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

X will
Dear Will.

I am replying to your letter No. 75136/48 of January 27th to Beeley about the entry of British Nationals into Palestine.

Our general view is that we should not encourage British Nationals to go to Palestine in the immediate future *owing to the unsettled situation.* Clearly any cases justified by business or family reasons should be allowed, but I suggest that we should stipulate that such reasons should exist before granting a permit.

I have consulted our Passport Office who point out that the control exercised by them at the wish of the Palestine Government is at present very strict. We therefore consider that the situation can be left as it stands, since it would be undesirable to ban all visits to Palestine.

LP 19/2

21st Feb

20/11

7

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

E 1260 / 1260 / 21

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 26th February, 1948.

R. 26th " " 13.45 hrs.

INDEXED

IMMEDIATE.
No. 470 Secret

Your telegram No. 703.

My savingram No. 57 contains more detailed proposals regarding future of British residents in Palestine. Regret reply to paragraph 2 of your telegram not possible at present. The position will be clearer after action completed as proposed in paragraphs 4 and 5 of my savingram under reference. Grateful for very early reply.

Copy sent to:-
Foreign Office - Mr. J.G.S. Beith.

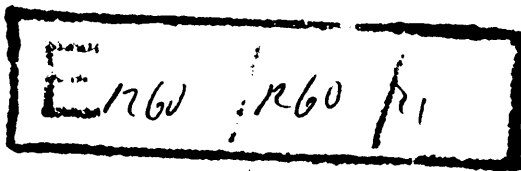
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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

75136/48

Cypher (O.T.P.)



TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent 25th February, 1948. 11.00 hrs.

INDEXED

No. 705 Secret

Your telegram No. 296.

Palostine.

Entry of British nationals into

General view is that British nationals should not be encouraged to go to Palestine in immediate future owing to unsettled situation and that control at present exercised under which entry is only accorded when justified by business or family reasons is sufficient.

2. It would be helpful if some indication could be given of the number of British nationals, other than Arabs or Jews, who will probably remain in Palestine after withdrawal, in order to enable advance assessment to be made of extent of problem of evacuation of British subjects which might fall to be dealt with by British representative should the situation warrant that course.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. J.G.S. Beith.

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10

E

E 3170

PALESTINE

9 MAR '48

Registry Number E 3170/1260/31

FROM W.A.B. Watherson
Colonial Office

No. 75872/159/27/48

Dated 8. Mar

Received in Registry } L.W. Beeth
8. Mar
9 -

Entry of British Materials into Palestine

After Mr Beeth's letter of Feb 21 (E1260/1260/21)

Parliamentary paper of 14/0 (E1270 of 26 Feb and
Lancet 57 of 20 Feb. in which the
question of goods that should be given to non-
official British subjects whose names are
in the UK list are now making up their minds
whether or not to leave the country and to take
security measures that can be provided for them is
not to remain.

Last Paper.

1260

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

apt. W.A.B. Watherson, 20
from Mr Beeth -
Mar 18/48

(Action completed.)

G.P.M. 18/3

(Index)

108/10
14/4

Next Paper.

3839

(Minutes.)

I think the High Commissioner's
proposals are reasonable
and that the registers
proposed by Mr Mathieson
will be very helpful.

? Consul

Consular Dept. } first
Personnel Dept. }

Certainly G.P.M. 18/3

J.S. Beeth
Mar 10

Certainly G.P.M. 10/3

12/13/3

Letter to Co.
JB Mar 16

In P.P. 1068 22/3

29470 F.O.P.

JB Apr 1 P.T.O.

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J. P.P. C.D. let to Palestine 1260 3/4

Consul Dept.

JB Apr. 8

J. P.P. Palestine let 865 5/4

915 9/4

970 12/4

Passport office

JB Apr. 17

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Enter soon

Colonial Office,
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
LONDON S.W.1. *E*

My Reference ...75872/159/27/48

~~February, 1948.~~ *12*

Your Reference

8 MAR 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

E 3170

My dear Sir,

9 MAR 1948

Would you please refer to your letter of the 21st February (E 1260/1260/31) about the entry of British nationals into Palestine.

You will have seen a copy of our telegram No. 703 of the 25th February to the High Commissioner in reply, copy enclosed for convenience of reference, and I now enclose a copy of the High Commissioner's telegram No. 470 of the 26th February, and of his savingram No. 57 of the 20th February.

In his savingram, the High Commissioner raises the question of advice that should be given to non-official British subjects whose normal domicile is in the United Kingdom, who are now making up their minds whether or not to leave the country and to the security measures that can be provided for those who have to remain. In paragraph 4 of his savingram the High Commissioner suggests the terms under which persons who are members of the commercial community and Missionaries and allied institutions should be approached on this subject and he suggests that the advice given should be transmitted to the persons concerned as emanating from His Majesty's Government. The High Commissioner asks for early telegraphic confirmation of this step and we should like to have your early agreement.

/..As

J.G.S. BEITH, ESQ.

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HK

RECEIVED IN O.B.
9 MAR 1948
SENT TO DEPT.

As regards paragraph 7 of the High Commissioner's savingram, we have already agreed that the present arrangements are sufficiently controlled.

We think that it might be helpful to His Majesty's Representative if, as the Palestine Government propose to contact British subjects on this question, a register could be compiled of British subjects whose normal domicile is in the United Kingdom who elect to remain in Palestine after the 15th May. We propose, if you agree, to make this suggestion to the High Commissioner.

Yours ever
W.A.C. Mathieson

(W.A.C. Mathieson)

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INWARD TELEGRAM

13

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 26th February, 1948.
R. 26th " " 13.45 hrs.

IMMEDIATE.
No. 470 Secret

Your telegram No. 703.

My savingram No. 57 contains more detailed proposals regarding future of British residents in Palestine. Regret reply to paragraph 2 of your telegram not possible at present. The position will be clearer after action completed as proposed in paragraphs 4 and 5 of my savingram under reference. Grateful for very early reply.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. J.G.S. Beith.

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SAVING
FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE.
TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

Date 20th February, 1948.
No. 57 Saving. PRIORITY. SECRET.

Reference my saving telegram No. 21 of the 13th January regarding the future of British nationals in Palestine other than Government officials, Police and Army and their families.

2. Further consideration has now been given to this question with special regard to the advice that should be given to non-official British subjects who are now making up their minds whether or not to leave the country, and to the security measures that can be provided for those who have to remain.

3. As indicated in my saving telegram under reference an analysis of British subjects resident in Palestine in 1940 indicated that there were some six thousand persons of British nationality in Palestine at that time. The majority of these are either Jewish or have other origins that give them indigenous status in this country. Consideration is therefore limited to the following groups of British subjects whose normal domicile is in the United Kingdom.

- (a) Official (Foreign Office, British Council etc.)
- (b) Members of the Commerical community.
- (c) Missionaries and allied institutions.

4. I propose to advise those persons in Groups (b) and (c), through District Commissioners and the Bishop respectively, that consideration of their future plans should take into account the fact that the degree of practical assistance which can be provided by H.M.G. will be immeasurably greater now, and during the process of the withdrawal of the administration, than it will be after that operation is completed. Whatever their future plans may be, they should now give serious consideration to taking advantage of these conditions and sending their wives and children to the United Kingdom before the end of pril. I also propose to inform them that any requests for Government assistance in this respect must be communicated to me before the 15th March.

5. In view of the eventual transfer of responsibility for the welfare of British subjects, from the Palestine Government to the Foreign Office Representative, I suggest that the foregoing advice be transmitted to the persons concerned as emanating from H.M.G. I shall be grateful for your early telegraphic confirmation of this step.

6. With regard to British subjects in Group (a) above further consideration is now being given to arrangements for providing security accommodation, if necessary, in cantonment areas, and for stocking such areas with adequate food reserves.

7. I shall be grateful if the Foreign Office may be requested at the same time to tender appropriate advice to all British subjects making application for Palestine endorsements.

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

75136/48

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent 25th February, 1948. 11.00 hrs.

No. 703 Secret

Your telegram No. 296.

Entry of British nationals into
Palestine.

General view is that British nationals should not be encouraged to go to Palestine in immediate future owing to unsettled situation and that control at present exercised under which entry is only accorded when justified by business or family reasons is sufficient.

2. It would be helpful if some indication could be given of the number of British nationals, other than Arabs or Jews, who will probably remain in Palestine after withdrawal, in order to enable advance assessment to be made of extent of problem of evacuation of British subjects which might fall to be dealt with by British representative should the situation warrant that course.

Copy sent to:-
Foreign Office - Mr. J.G.S. Beith.

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Registry
No. E3170/1260/31.

WAC
Draft.
Letter.

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted.
Open

WAC
Mr. Mathieson.
COLONIAL OFFICE.

From *JCS Beith*
Mr. Beith.

*As I informed
you by telephone,*

RECEIVED IN
DIVISION
21 MAR 1948
SENT TO
TYPE *16/3*
REPLY

PUT FILE *18* March, 1948. *16 17/10*
17/4

Thank you for your letter No. 75872/
159/27/48 of March 8th about non-official
British subjects in Palestine.

We agree with the High Commissioner's
proposals and think that the register which
you suggest in your last paragraph would
be very useful.

JB Mar 16

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

75872/159/27/48

Cypher (O.T.P.)

770 1260 21

1 APR 1948

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent 22nd March, 1948. 13.30 hrs.

No. 1068 Secret.

Your telegram No. 57.

Future of British nationals in Palestine.

I approve the action proposed in paragraphs 4 and 5 of your telegram.

2. It would be useful if a register could be compiled of British subjects whose normal domicile is in the United Kingdom who elect to remain in Palestine after the 15th May, which would be available to H. M. Representative.

Colonial Office, London. 75872/159/27/48
With reference to the above.
Date 30 3 48
Reference E 3470/1260/31

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

19

enter

3170 1260 31

75872/159/27/48

Cypher (C.T.P.)

INDEXED

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent 3rd April, 1948. 16.15 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1260 Secret.

My telegram No. 1065. Future of British
nationals in Palestine.

Matter has been considered in Cabinet and, in addition to the Action proposed in your telegram No. 57 secret saving, my colleagues and I desire that British subjects in Palestine should be explicitly warned of the dangers of staying in the country. While they cannot, of course, be forced to leave, they should be strongly advised to do so, as soon as possible, and told that if they stay it will be at their own risk. This warning may be given as coming from His Majesty's Government. There may of course be some members of the British community e.g. employees of the Refinery at Haifa in whose case advice to leave the country would be inappropriate at any rate at this stage and I must leave it to your discretion how far this direction is applicable in individual cases.

2. It has become clear in examination of the directive to G.O.C. that no general responsibility can be laid on him to protect British lives and property in Palestine after 15th May. He is being directed to take whatever steps may be possible and in keeping with his main responsibilities under the Directive, i.e., for the withdrawal of his troops and their stores, to protect British lives in the areas in which his troops are located. As British authority will not be effective beyond those areas it is necessary that British subjects should now be given a clear warning of the situation in which they may find themselves if they remain in the country after 15th May.

3. It will of course be understood that His Majesty's Government accept no (repeat no) liability in respect of losses incurred by British subjects abandoning property or businesses in Palestine in accordance with the advice referred to above.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. J.O.S. Beith.
War Office - Col. M.M. Charteris.
Private Secretary, 10 Downing Street.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

pw 20
L

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

?170 1260 ?1

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 13th April, 1948.

R. 13th " "

19.07 hrs.

INDEXED

No. 970 Secret.

Your telegram No. 1338.

Future of British Nationals.

Passport Office is continuing to refer certain applications for Palestine endorsements to the Immigration Department. An example is Mr. L.G. Western, whose application was referred to in Passport Office telegram of 7th April and supported by the Board of Trade. I have no objection to Western's proposed visit, provided he reports to the District Commissioner on arrival. The consideration mentioned in my telegram No. 865 will, however, apply to all British subjects who enter Palestine with official backing. You may wish to consider impressing upon all departments concerned, the desirability of reducing their support for such applications, to cases of real Imperial interest.

Copies sent to:-

- Passport Office - Mr. J. Jasper
- Foreign Office - Mr. J.G.S. Beith
- War Office (M.O.4) - Col. M.M. Charteris
- No. 10 Downing St. - Private Secretary.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

2

3170 1260 21

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 9th April, 1948

R. 9th " " "

16.20 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

INDEXED

No. 915 Secret.

My telegram No. 865.

British Nationals.

Grateful for very early reply, as matter is becoming urgent.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office
War Office
Private Secretary,
No. 10 Downing St.

Mr. J.G.S. Beith.
Col. M. Charteris.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

PW 22

3170 1260 71

E

Cypher (C.S.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 5th April, 1948.
R. 5th " " 17.10 hrs.

INDEXED

URGENT

REPLY URGENTLY REQUIRED
BY 23.00 HRS.

Your telegram No. 1260 not understood.

Future of British nationals.

In view of previous correspondence (my telegram No. 57
and your telegram No. 1068) I assume that the expression "British
subjects" in your telegram under reply refers only to those whose
status is not in doubt.

It must be pointed out, however, that if an explicit warning is
issued to these persons, whether verbally or otherwise, it will
be difficult to exclude those who may be in positions of imperial
importance (such as staff of Haifa Oil Refineries) and even if they
are warned they would get to know of it. Is it therefore
not possible that they should, in the case of all such essential
personnel, be provided with an intimation that H.M. Government, while
not accepting any attendant risk, would be glad if they would
depart as soon as possible until the last possible moment, in the
event of a change of circumstances? It should be clear that if this were done it
would be necessary for H.M. Government to accept responsibility
for the future of individuals concerned at a later date, should
it become necessary to provide them with assistance.

- Mr. J.D.S. Keith.
- Col. H. Charteris.

Mr. J.D.S. Keith,
Colonial Office,
Whitehall, London, W.C.2.

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FO					
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3

E

E 3839

23

1948

PALESTINE

25 MAR 1948

Registry Number E3839/1260/31

FROM

No. Foreign Office Minute

Dated Mr. Beeley

Received in Registry 22nd March 25th "

Palestine, British women and children after May 15th
The War office and Mr. Marriot concur that British women and children should be moved out of Haifa before May 1 th. Colonial Office, however, think that the High Commissioner would be most reluctant to use powers of compulsion. Almost all the British women and children still in Haifa are members of oil company families. Attaches draft to the Company in London, thinks that they will act on the suggestion that they get these people moved and replaced where necessary.

Last Paper.

3170

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Opt. consolidated
References Hd.
March 25

8, Higham B.O.
Charters W.O.
R.C. Mitchell M.F.P.
April 5.

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index)

[Signature]
14/4/48

Next Paper.

E 4250

(Minutes.)

M2 Brief

D.B. 20/5

Copy FO letter to
Cons. References to
Co. (Mr Higham)
W.O. (Col. Charters)
My M.F.P. (Mr R. Mitchell)
B Mar 31

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Minutes.

24

E 3839

Palestine

25 MAR 1948

British women and children after May 15th.

The War office and Mr. Marriott concur in the view that British women and children should be moved out of Haifa before the 15th May. The Colonial Office, however, think that the High Commissioner would be most reluctant to use powers of compulsion.

Almost all the British women and children still in Haifa are members of oil company families. Mr. Marriott discussed their position with a representative of the company in London, and he considers that they would act on the suggestion in the attached draft (written by Mr. Marriott before he left for Copenhagen).

H. Beeley 229
 24.3
 23.3

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:- FO 371 / 68654

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Registry
No. E3839/1260/31

Draft.

Consolidated
Refineries Ltd.,
Britannic House,
Finsbury Circus,
E.C.2.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

H. Bealey 22/3

B. B. Brown

22/3

Confidential

25/
25 March
25

Gentlemen, ~~OUT FILE~~ *† (1)*

I am directed etc. to inform you that he has had under consideration the position of British women and children resident in Palestine after 15th May and after 1st August next. As you are aware, the mandate under which H.M. Government has been administering Palestine expires on 15th May and the Government of Palestine in its present form will then cease to function. You are no doubt fully informed of the present troubled state of Palestine and there are no grounds for foreseeing an improvement if there should not be a central civil authority. On the contrary, it is to be feared that conditions will worsen.

From 15th May to 31st July the G.O.C. British Land Forces in Palestine will have authority to exercise such powers as may be necessary to ensure only (a) the safety of his troops and (b) their evacuation.

From 1st August there will not be any of H.M. Armed forces in Palestine.

You will be aware that the High Commissioner in Palestine has advised all British women and children to leave Palestine and has offered facilities for them to do so before 15th April. He has further said that those who leave between 15th April and 15th May will be given such facilities to leave as may exist but that those who delay their departure until then must be prepared to face discomfort and probably hardship on the journey.

From 1st August Palestine will be for British subjects a foreign country in which there may not be any central authority which

could/

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could be held responsible by H.M. Government for the safety of the lives and property of British subjects.

~~Mr. Bevin, who hopes that your refinery at Haifa, which is of such great importance to the recovery of this country, will function as long as circumstances permit, sympathises with those of your staff who have their families with them in Palestine and understands that some may not be prepared to face a second enforced separation from them. He feels strongly, however, that all women and children would be well-advised to leave Palestine forthwith and that, by causing this letter to be written to you now, you will have some opportunity to replace members of your staff who will not remain in Palestine without their wives and/or children.~~

~~that, if you agree, you should~~

WLL

23.2

HM Diplomatic & Consular representatives will of course do everything possible to safeguard Br. lives & property but in the circumstances likely to exist their powers of intervention may in practice be severely limited.

therefore suggests that, if you agree, you should take the necessary steps without delay in order that you may

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E 3839/1860/31.

26

FOREIGN OFFICE,

S.W.1.

25th March 1948.

CONFIDENTIAL.
Gentlemen,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bevin to inform you that he has had under consideration the position of British women and children resident in Palestine after 15th May and after 1st August next. As you are aware, the mandate under which His Majesty's Government has been administering Palestine expires on 15th May and the Government of Palestine in its present form will then cease to function. You are no doubt fully informed of the present troubled state of Palestine and there are no grounds for foreseeing an improvement if there should not be a central civil authority. On the contrary, it is to be feared that conditions will worsen.

2. From 15th May to 31st July the General Officer Commanding British Land Forces in Palestine will have authority to exercise such powers as may be necessary to ensure only (a) the safety of his troops and (b) their evacuation.

3. From 1st August there will not be any of His Majesty's Armed Forces in Palestine.

4. You will be aware that the High Commissioner in Palestine has advised all British women and children to leave Palestine and offered facilities for them to do so before 15th April. He has further said that those who leave between 15th April and 15th May will be given such facilities to leave as may exist but that those who delay their departure until then must be prepared to face discomfort and probably hardship on the journey.

5. From 1st August Palestine will be for British subjects a foreign country in which there may not be any central authority which could be held responsible by His Majesty's Government for the safety of the lives and property of British subjects. His Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular representatives will of course do everything possible to safeguard British lives and property but in the circumstances likely to exist their powers of intervention may in practice be severely limited.

6. Mr. Bevin sympathises with those of your staff who have their families with them in Palestine and understands that some may not be prepared to face a second enforced separation from them. He feels strongly, however, that all women and children would be well-advised to leave Palestine forthwith and therefore suggests that, if you agree, you should take the necessary steps without delay in order that you may have some opportunity to replace members of your staff who will not remain in Palestine without their wives and/or children.

I am,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

Consolidated Refineries Limited,
Britannic House,
Finsbury Circus,
E.C.2.

H. G. ...

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4

E

E 4250

27

1948

5 APR 1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E4250/1260/31

FROM Anglo Iranian Oil Company

Dated 2nd April
Received in Registry } 5th

Future of British Women and Children in Palestine after May 15th.

Refers Foreign Office letter dated 25th March (E3839/1260/31) Have telegraphed to Mangger in Haifa requesting him to return to London for consultation on the advice given by the Foreign Office. Askd authority to show him contents of letter and to authorise him to show same to Company's staff in Haifa on his return.

Last Paper.

3839

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

left, N. A. Gass
Anglo-Iranian
Ret Govt.
from W. Keith
April 13.

(Action completed.)

7 April 1948

(Indexed)

14/2/48

Next Paper:

4600

(Minutes.)

I have told Mr. Gass that we see no objection to his showing our letter to the Haifa Manager and that the latter can be authorised to convey the same information to responsible members of his staff at Haifa. The Haifa Manager is apparently due tomorrow in London.

J. S. Smith
7th April, 1948.

1948

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-
FO 371/68654

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ANGLO-IRANIAN OIL COMPANY
FORMERLY ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL CO.
LIMITED.

TELEPHONE:
CENTRAL 7422.

TELEGRAMS:
INLAND: ANGLIRAN, TELEX, LONDON.
FOREIGN: ANGLIRAN, LONDON.



OUR REFERENCE

YOUR REFERENCE

BRITANNIC HOUSE,
FINSBURY CIRCUS,
LONDON. E. C. 2.

2nd April, 1948

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

E 28
4250

5 APR 1948

CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter
No. E.3839/1260/31 of 25th March 1948 in regard to the future
position in Palestine.

We have telegraphed to our Manager in Haifa
requesting him to return to London forthwith for consultation
of the position generally in Palestine and with particular
reference to the advice of the Secretary of State that all
women and children will be well advised to leave Palestine
immediately.

We shall be glad to have authority to show your
letter under reply to our Haifa Manager and to authorise him
to divulge the contents of the letter to our British Staff in
Haifa on his return. We contemplate that his visit to this
country should be of short duration only, as it is desirable
that he should return at the earliest possible date to put in
hand all necessary arrangements.

We have the honour to be Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

for ANGLO-IRANIAN OIL COMPANY LTD.

W. A. G. ...
DIRECTOR

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Registry

No. *Ek 250/1260/31*

OUT FILE

13 April, 1948.

9/4-30

130-

29

~~Top Secret~~

~~Secret~~

Confidential.

~~Restricted~~

Open *h*

JGSB

Draft.

N

N
W. A. Gass, Esq.,
Anglo-Iranian
Oil Company.

Dear Mr. Gass,

I write to confirm our telephone conversation referring to your confidential letter of April 2 to the Foreign Office about the position in Palestine.

This Department would raise no objection to your showing their letter of March 25 to your Haifa Manager on his arrival in London or to the latter's divulging the contents to responsible members of your British staff in Haifa.

from

JGS.
Mr. Beith

2-5 Beith
Apr. 7

Yours sincerely
JGS
8/4 (Sga) John Beith

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30

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W. 1.

13th April, 1948.

(S 4250/1260/31)

Confidential

Dear Mr. Gass,

I write to confirm our
telephone conversation referring
to your confidential letter of
April 2nd to the Foreign Office
about the position in Palestine.

This Department would raise
no objection to your showing
their letter of March 2th to your
Haifa Manager on his arrival
in London or to the latter's
divulging the contents to
responsible members of your
British staff in Haifa.

Yours sincerely,

(Spec.) John Beith
(J.C.S. Beith)

Mr. Gass, Esq.,
Anglo-Iranian Oil Company,
Britannic House,
Vinebury Circus,
S.W. 2.

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E

E 4606

3

1948

PALESTINE

14 APR 1948

Future of British Subjects in Palestine.

Registry Number | E4606/1260/31

FROM

A. Creech Jones
Colonial Secretary
to Mr. Bevin

No.

Dated 9th April
14th "

Received in Registry

Discusses question of the Future of the British subjects in Palestine, and proposes that they should be warned of the dangers of staying in the country.

1	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
2	
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Last Paper

4250

(Minutes.)

References

Mr Balfour

*Mr Bevin
Apr. 15*

(Print)

*DB
15/4*

(How disposed of)

*opt. Mr Creech Jones
from Mr J.
April 14*

J.P.P. 14/2/49 12/4

Mr Balfour

JB Apr. 20

*7) ~~Mr~~ Minister of
Health
April 15*

[Faint handwritten notes]

J.P.P. P.O. tel 1493 17/4

JB Apr. 21

(Action completed)

(Index)

J. E. [Signature]

[Signature]
14/2/48

Next Paper

E 4669

Reference:-

FO 371/68654

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S/S *James ...*
E. Dept
10/4
Mr. ...



COLONIAL OFFICE,
CHURCH HOUSE,
GREAT SMITH STREET, S.W.1.

9th April, 1948.

14 APR 1948

On 31st March the Defence Committee agreed that all British subjects in Palestine should be warned of the dangers of staying in the country and that, while they could not be forced to leave, they should be strongly advised to do so as quickly as possible and told that if they remained it would be at their own risk. I undertook to enquire whether warnings on these lines had already been issued and, if not, to ensure that they were.

The position on 31st March was that members of the commercial community in Palestine had already been advised that, in making their plans for the future, they should remember that H.M.G. could help in their departure to a much greater extent now than later on, when the possibility of practical assistance would steadily diminish. They were advised further that they should send their wives and children to the United Kingdom before the end of April. Missionaries and members of allied institutions were similarly advised through the Bishop in Jerusalem. The oil companies were also advised that they should arrange for families of their employees in Palestine to leave the country.

I therefore telegraphed to the High Commissioner instructing him to issue a warning as desired by the Defence Committee, suggesting that there might be some members of the British community, e.g. employees of the refineries in Haifa, in whose case advice to leave the country would be inappropriate, at any rate at this stage, and that he must exercise his discretion regarding the issue of a warning to these people. The High Commissioner has replied (a) he assumes that the warning should be given only to those British subjects whose normal domicile is in the U.K.; (b) if an explicit warning is conveyed to these persons, whether verbally or otherwise, it will not be possible to exclude those who may be in positions of imperial interest, such as the
/staff

The Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P.

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staff of the Haifa Oil Refineries. He has suggested that in the case of all such essential persons the warning should be accompanied by an intimation that H.M.G., while in no way minimizing the attendant risk, would be glad if they would remain at their posts until the last possible moment in the national interest. It would have to be made clear that, in the event of their remaining in response to this request H.M.G. would accept responsibility for the evacuation of the individuals concerned at a later date, should circumstances in Palestine make this necessary, and in the meantime accept responsibility for their security.

As to (a) above, I think that the warning should apply only to those whose normal domicile is not in Palestine. As to (b), in view of the importance of maintaining the operation of the oil refineries as long as possible, I feel that the warning must be modified in the sense suggested by the High Commissioner

Before submitting for the approval of the Prime Minister, I would like to know if you agree with me on these two points. I am writing similarly to Alexander.

Yours

Arthur C. Jones

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75872/159/27/48 Pal.

9th April, 1948. 33

On 31st March the Defence Committee agreed that all British subjects in Palestine should be warned of the dangers of staying in the country and that, while they could not be forced to leave, they should be strongly advised to do so as quickly as possible and told that if they remained it would be at their own risk. I undertook to enquire whether warnings on these lines had already been issued and, if not, to ensure that they were.

The position on 31st March was that members of the commercial community in Palestine had already been advised that, in making their plans for the future they should remember that H.M.G. could help in their departure to a much greater extent now than later on, when the possibility of practical assistance would steadily diminish. They were advised further that they should send their wives and children to the United Kingdom before the end of April. Missionaries and members of allied institutions were similarly advised through the Bishop in Jerusalem. The oil companies were also advised that they should arrange for families of their employees in Palestine to leave the country.

I therefore telegraphed to the High Commissioner instructing him to issue a warning as desired by the Defence Committee, suggesting that there might be some members of the British community, e.g. employees of the refineries in Haifa, in whose case advice to leave the country would be inappropriate, at any rate at this stage, and that he must exercise his discretion regarding the issue of a warning to these people. The High Commissioner has replied (a) he assumes that the warning should be given only to those British subjects whose normal domicile is in the U.K.; (b) if an explicit warning is conveyed to these persons, whether verbally or otherwise, it will not be possible to exclude those who may be in positions of imperial interest, such as the /staff

The Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P.

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staff of the Haifa Oil Refineries. He has suggested that in the case of all such essential persons the warning should be accompanied by an intimation that H.M.G., while in no way minimizing the attendant risk, would be glad if they would remain at their posts until the last possible moment in the national interest. It would have to be made clear that in the event of their remaining in response to this request H.M.G. would accept responsibility for the evacuation of the individuals concerned at a later date, should circumstances in Palestine make this necessary, and in the meantime accept responsibility for their security.

As to (a) above, I think that the warning should apply only to those whose normal domicile is not in Palestine. As to (b), in view of the importance of maintaining the operation of the oil refineries as long as possible, I feel that the warning must be modified in the sense suggested by the High Commissioner

Before submitting for the approval of the Prime Minister, I would like to know if you agree with me on these two points. I am writing similarly to Alexander.

(Sgd.) A. Creech Jones.

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Registry
No.

Top Secret.
Secret.
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Restricted.
Open.

J. G. S. B.

Draft.

The Colonial
Secretary.

(From the
Secretary of
State).

Private Sec.
(Co. informed
D/S's decision
by telephone)

D. S. Bevin
Apr. 13

Copy to:

M. Defence

14/4

IMMEDIATE 14 April, 1948.

Dear Arthur, +1

Thank you for your letter
of April 9th making proposals as to
the manner in which a warning should
be conveyed to British subjects in
Palestine of the dangers of staying
in the country.

2. I agree with the line of
action proposed in your letter and am
sending a copy of this letter to the Minister
Alexander. of Defence.

JB/4

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Ernest Bevin.

14/1
14/3
34

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(2/47) (14728) Wt. 11488-144 250m 5/47 G.S.St.

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. 35

14th April, 1948.

● f
(B 4606/1260/31)

Confidential

Immediate

Dear Arthur,

Thank you for your letter of 9th April making proposals as to the manner in which a warning should be conveyed to British subjects in Palestine of the dangers of staying in the country.

2. I agree with the line of action proposed in the penultimate paragraph of your letter and am sending a copy of this letter to the Minister of Defence.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Ernest Bevin,

The Right Honourable
A. Creech Jones, M.P.

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36

Great George Street,
London, S.W.1.

12th April, 1948.

Dear Arthur,

In your letter of 9th April you asked my comments on your proposed instructions to the High Commissioner in regard to the warning to British subjects in Palestine as to the dangers of their staying in the country.

As regards your first point, I agree that the warning should apply to those whose normal domicile is not in Palestine.

On the question of modification of the warning in respect of those who may be in positions of Imperial interest, such as the staff of the Haifa oil refineries, there is no doubt that apart from the good grounds there are for keeping important installations like these going after 15th May and even after 1st August, there will also be required the continued services of a number of ex-officers of the Palestine administration to run essential services between 15th May and 1st August. There would be every advantage in all wives and children of men who may stay behind for this purpose being evacuated as early as possible. But as regards the scope of the warning for people in this category, it would surely be well for the High Commissioner

The Right Honourable A. Creech Jones, M.P.

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to consult, on the one hand the heads of the commercial installations concerned (e.g. the Haifa oil companies), and on the other hand the G.O.C. Palestine as to the minimum assistance he may desire for running essential services up till 1st August: you will remember that paragraph 4 of his Administrative Instruction (D.O.(48) 26 - Annex II) gives him powers to employ temporarily officers of the former Palestine Government so far as these may be essential to assist in the evacuation.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Foreign Secretary.

Yours sincerely,

(*Minister of Defence*)

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P.W. 38

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

E 4606/1260/21

75872/159/27/48

Cypher (O.T.P.)

21 APR 1948

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 17th April, 1948. 21.15 hrs. ~~SECRET~~

IMMEDIATE

No. 493 Secret.

Your telegram No. 865. Future of British nationals. I have consulted my colleagues who agree that the warning to British subjects to leave Palestine should be modified in the sense you suggest in the case of essential personnel in positions of Imperial interest. It may be made clear to those persons that His Majesty's Government accept responsibility for their evacuation at a later date, should circumstances in Palestine make this necessary, and in the meantime accept responsibility for their security as far as available resources permit.

2. The warning should be confined to those British subjects whose normal domicile is not in Palestine. Dominions nationals, if any, should therefore be included.

Copies sent to:-

- Foreign Office - Mr. Beith.
- War Office - Col. M.M. Charteris.
- Private Secretary, Foreign Office.
- Private Secretary, No. 10 Downing Street.
- Private Secretary, Ministry of Defence.
- Private Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Office.

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E

E 4669

39

1948

15 APR 1948

Registry Number | E4669/1260/31

FROM N.A. Gass
No. Anglo Iranian Oil Company
Dated 13th April 15th "
Received in Registry

Future of British Women and Children in Palestine after May 15th.

Refers Foreign Office letter E3839/1260/31 of 25th March, The Company's Haifa Manager has arrived in London, and discussions with him produced the following conclusions, (1) It will not be possible to operate the Haifa refinery from the time that the protection of British Forces is withdrawn. (2) All British wives and families are being evacuated from Haifa, movement will be completed by 30th April. (3) Company will thereafter continue to operate the refinery for as long as protection is available, petroleum stocks will be reduced to minimum, all British staff will then be withdrawn.

Last Paper

4606

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes.)

I have spoken to Mr. Mitchell of the Ministry of Fuel and Power about this letter, of which he has a copy. I pointed out that there was a slip in the second paragraph where the Company say that "after the 1st of August Palestine will be a foreign country". I am afraid this was taken from our letter on E 3839/1260/31 and that the phrase used was not quite accurate. It should be "after May 15".

Mr. Mitchell asked me whether in the course of this correspondence the Foreign Office have now informed the Oil Companies that the G.O.C. expected to be able to afford protection to the installations as long as British troops were in Haifa. I told him that I thought it best not to make such a statement in writing, since what the G.O.C. could do would always be subject to the exigencies of withdrawal and the War Office would not wish to bind him too greatly. The G.O.C. had specifically been given a free hand in his Directive and I think that the most we could do would be for the Ministry of Fuel and Power to inform the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in confidence that the military authorities were reasonably sure of being able to afford protection until their withdrawal.

As regards the final paragraph of this letter, it is worth noting that according to a recent report from Palestine the Refinery has ceased to operate in the last few days owing to the defection of the Arab workers. I doubt if we shall see much more production from it during the present year.

ER. Dept. *Beith*
Samir Lion on Dept *Beith*
(J. G. S. Beith)
15th April, 1948.

Mr. Malins 22/4.
Sir E Hall *will wish*
Nald *see*
Itinerary 24/4/48.

L.G.L. Pyman
17/4

R.B. Burton
20.4
W.H. 21.4.

(Action completed)

(Index)

Next Paper

4922

34967

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
Reference:-
FO 371 / 68654
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ANGLO-IRANIAN OIL COMPANY
FORMERLY ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL CO.
LIMITED.

TELEPHONE:
CENTRAL 7422.

TELEGRAMS:
INLAND: ANGLIRAN, TELEX, LONDON.
FOREIGN: ANGLIRAN, LONDON.

E 4869

15 APR 1948

YOUR REFERENCE

BRITANNIC HOUSE,
FINSBURY CIRCUS,
LONDON. E. C. 2.

E 40

13th April, 1948.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

We beg to refer to your letter E 3839/1260/31 of 25th March and our interim reply of 2nd April 1948. We have now discussed the situation with our Manager in Haifa who arrived in London for consultation on 8th April 1948.

In the face of the fear expressed by you that conditions will worsen and of your intimation that after the 15th May the General Officer Commanding in Palestine will no longer have powers to ensure the protection of our Staff, and furthermore that after the 1st August Palestine will be a foreign country in which there may not be any Central Authority which could be held responsible by His Majesty's Government for the safety of the lives and property of British subjects; and in view of the conditions prevailing in Palestine, we have reached the conclusion that it will not be possible to operate the Haifa Refinery from the time that the protection of British Forces is withdrawn.

In the meantime all British wives and families are being evacuated from Haifa to Cyprus or elsewhere and this movement will be completed by 30th April. Thereafter, we shall continue to operate the Refinery for as long as protection by British Forces is available, and petroleum stocks in the Refinery tankage will be reduced to the minimum required for whatever scale of operations may be possible. When it becomes necessary to shut down the Refinery, the British Staff will be withdrawn.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

for ANGLO-IRANIAN OIL COMPANY LTD.

W. J. G. J.
DIRECTOR.

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E

E 4922

41

1948

21 APR 1948

Registry Number } E4922/1260/31

FROM Lord Listowel
No. Colonial Office

Dated Communicated.

Received in Registry } 21st April

Future of British Subjects in Palestine.

Transmits copy of Minute to the Prime Minister by Lord Listowel dated 16th April, dealing with the future and safety of all British Subjects in Palestine.

Last Paper

4669

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

9/11/40

(Index)

26/2/49

Next Paper

E 5037

(Minutes.)

The S/S agreed to this

EAO Dept. 23/4 (See E4606)

Johnston 27/4 Contacta Dept.

Personnel Dept. 24/4 JB Apr. 21

Miss Siffert

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Reference:-
FO

371 / 68654

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Prime Minister

On the 31st March the Defence Committee decided that all British subjects in Palestine should be warned of the dangers of staying in the country and that, while they could not be forced to leave, they should be strongly advised to do so as quickly as possible and told that if they remained it would be at their own risk. The Colonial Secretary undertook to enquire whether warnings on these lines had already been issued, and, if not, to ensure that they were.

As regards officials of the Palestine Government, their wives and children will all have been evacuated from the country by the end of April and the officials themselves are being evacuated in accordance with a phased programme before the 15th of May, with the exception of those who are being seconded for service with the A.C.F. As regards non-officials, the position on the 31st March was that members of the commercial community in Palestine had already been advised that, in making their plans for the future, they should remember that His Majesty's Government could help in their departure to a much greater extent now than later on, when the possibility of practical assistance would steadily diminish. They were advised further that they should send their wives and children to the United Kingdom before the end of April. Missionaries and members of allied institutions were similarly

advised.

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advised through the Bishop in Jerusalem. The oil companies were also advised that they should arrange for families of their employees in Palestine to leave the country.

The Colonial Secretary therefore telegraphed to the High Commissioner instructing him to issue a warning as desired by the Defence Committee, but suggesting that there might be some members of the British community, e.g. employees of the refineries in Haifa, in whose case advice to leave the country would be inappropriate, at any rate at this stage, and that he must exercise his discretion regarding the issue of a warning to these people. The High Commissioner has replied (a) that he assumes that the warning should be given only to those British subjects whose normal domicile is in the United Kingdom; (b) that if an explicit warning is conveyed to these persons, whether verbally or otherwise, it will not be possible to include those who may be in positions of imperial interest, such as the staff of the Haifa oil refineries. He has suggested that in the case of all such essential persons the warning should be accompanied by an intimation that His Majesty's Government, while in no way minimizing the attendant risk, would be glad if they would remain at their posts until the last possible moment in the national interest. It should have to be made clear that in the event of their remaining in response to this request, His Majesty's Government would accept

responsibility

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responsibility for the evacuation of the individuals concerned at a later date, should circumstances in Palestine make this necessary, and in the meantime accept responsibility for their security.

As to (a) above the Colonial Secretary agreed that the warning should apply only to those whose normal domicile is not in Palestine. As to (b), in view of the importance of maintaining the operation of the oil refineries as long as possible, he felt that the warning must be modified in the sense suggested by the High Commissioner. He therefore consulted the Foreign Secretary and the Minister of Defence who have agreed with his view.

I therefore seek your approval of the High Commissioner's proposals. I am sending a copy of this minute, for their information, to the Foreign Secretary, the Minister of Defence and the Secretary of State for Commonwealth relations.

INITIALED. *L.*

16th April, 1948.

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E

5037

44

1948

23 APR 1948

Registry Number E5037/1260/31
 FROM Foreign Office
 No. G. D. Spinney
 Dated 19th April
 Received 23rd
 in Registry

Cable and Wireless in Palestine.

Gives record of meeting held on the 19th April regarding the future of Establishments of Cable and Wireless now in Palestine.

Last Paper
4922

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

tel, Amman 231
20. April

(Action completed)

(Index)

[Handwritten signatures and dates]

Next Paper

5717

(Minutes.)

D. Balfour 23/4

Mr Lamb, Communications Dept.

Mr Beith in return

*In P.P. Lewis Jones, American Embassy. 2 M. Parsons
April 23*

Mr Lewis Jones called at the F.O. on April 24th and was informed orally that it had already been arranged, before receipt of his letter, that the Jerusalem cable & wireless unit were to be transferred to Amman. He was much concerned to have the future possibilities of Jerusalem communications investigated with us and I suggested that Mr McIndoe, Telecommunications attaché at the U.S. Embassy, had better discuss this problem with our General Dept, since it is a highly technical question. I also told him that Mr McIndoe should get in touch with Mr Beith and that the really competent authority in this matter is the Colonial Office and Govt of Palestine.

D. Balfour 26/4

See former pp.

Johnny 10

34987

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5037

23 APR 1948

Record of a Meeting held at the Foreign Office on the 19th April: Establishments of Cable and Wireless in Palestine.

The following were present:

Mr. G.D. Spinney	Foreign Office
Mr. H. Townshead	Post Office
Mr. Sharp	Post Office
Mrs. Mitchell	Post Office
Mr. Hall	Colonial Office
Mr. Hignam	Colonial Office
Mr. Innes	Cable & Wireless
Mr. Chaplin	Cable & Wireless
Mr. Beith	Foreign Office

Cable and Wireless Ltd. had received, on the 17th April, a message from their station at Jerusalem to the effect that the military authorities had warned their staff that their safety could no longer be guaranteed, that no further reliance could be placed on promises of safety made by either Jews or ~~Amman~~ Arabs, and that it would be advisable to evacuate the staff to Egypt or Transjordan. The military authorities could provide transport to move the staff and equipment to either country at any time up to the 1st May, if given reasonable notice. A similar message was later received from Haifa.

2. It was agreed that the questions of the Jerusalem station and the Haifa station should be considered separately, and that the future of the Jerusalem installation was the most pressing question. The equipment there consisted of a mobile transmitter ("Blue Train") which could fairly easily be moved and set up elsewhere. Unless it were intended to evacuate the staff and equipment to the United Kingdom, and to abandon all thought of their eventual return, there would be no object in removing them to Egypt. In Transjordan, on the other hand, the transmitter could be used to provide an emergency link with the Cable and Wireless system, via Cyprus or possibly the United Kingdom direct.

3. It was agreed that the most satisfactory solution would be to take advantage of the offer of military transport and to move the Jerusalem staff and equipment to Transjordan, provided that the consent of the Transjordan authorities could be obtained. The Foreign Office undertook to request H.M. Representative at Amman to approach the Transjordan Government in order to obtain permission to establish the transmitter in Transjordan territory as a temporary and emergency measure.

4. From the point of view of H.M. Government, this course of action had the advantage of assuring communications with Transjordan; since nearly all land-lines to that country pass through Jerusalem, there is some likelihood of their being cut or seized. For the same reason, it was thought probable that

the

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Minutes

6m

the Government of Transjordan would see every advantage in allowing the temporary installation of the mobile transmitter.

5. The future of the Haifa establishment, which consisted chiefly of cable-neads, was less urgent, and no decision could be reached until more accurate information was received about the local situation and the degree of military protection which would be available. Other British concerns such as the oil installation and the banks would presumably be kept in operation under military protection, possibly within a military zone, and it might be desirable to maintain the communication facilities provided by Cable and Wireless, whose Palestine representative would keep them informed of developments.

6s The Cable and Wireless station at Jaffa had a small wireless transmitter which would be left in the hands of the Arab staff there. A similar transmitter, which was to have been flown to Haifa as an emergency stand-by, would be diverted to the Tel-Aviv station and left in the hands of the Jewish staff there.

G.D. Spinney

19/4/48.

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Mr. Townshend, Director of the Telecommunication Branch of the G.P.O., telephoned on 17/4 to say that he had received a message from Cable & Wireless, Ltd., Jerusalem.

The company had been warned by the military authorities that no further reliance could be placed on the guarantees of either Arabs or Jews, and had been advised to evacuate their staff.

A similar message was later received from Cable & Wireless at Haifa.

Sir Hugh Dow, whom Mr. Townshend suggested should be consulted, is not yet back in England. A meeting has been arranged at the F.O. between Messrs. Townshend, Hall (C.O., Communications) Higham (C.O., Palestine), Beith, ~~with~~ members of Cable & Wireless, & myself.

D.S.

19/4

[Handwritten signature]

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Registry
No.

~~XXXXXX~~
Secret.
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~~XXXX~~
Open.

G.D.S.

CYP **OUT-FILE**
20 April, 1948.

Despatched 2 25 P M.

Draft.

H.M. Rep.,
AMMAN.

IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

Telegram.

No. 231

(Date) 20th April

Repeat to :-

JERUSALEM.

No.
Dated.....

B.M.E.O.

No.
Dated.....

*Eastern Dept.
20 Apr. 20*

~~XXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXX~~

Cypher.

Distribution :-

Departmental

No. 2.

Copies to :-

Addressed to Amman telegram No. 231
of ~~Amman~~ repeated Jerusalem and B.M.E.O.
for information.

Cable and Wireless Limited

Jerusalem have been warned by military authorities that safety of their staff can no longer be guaranteed and have been advised to evacuate to Transjordan. Army is prepared to transport staff and their mobile transmitter if requested before May 1st to do so.

2. We are in favour of this move which should also commend itself to Transjordan Government. Present communications with Amman pass through Jerusalem and are likely to be cut. Proposed evacuation would provide wireless telegraphy link with entire Cable and Wireless system via Cyprus or United Kingdom.

3. *If you see no objection please approach*
Please approach Government to which ~~Transjordan~~ authorities you are accredited with request that permission be granted for temporary establishment of transmitter on Transjordan territory.

4. *Grateful for early reply.*

*G.D.S.
20/4.*

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Cypher/OTP

W
Secret

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO AMMAN

No. 251

20th April, 1948

D. 2.25 p.m. 20th April, 1948

Repeated to: Jerusalem
British Middle East Office No. 313

IMMEDIATE
SECRET

Addressed to Amman telegram No. 251 of April 20th
repeated for information to Jerusalem and British Middle
East Office.

Cable and Wireless Limited Jerusalem have been warned by military authorities that safety of their staff can no longer be guaranteed and have been advised to evacuate to Transjordan. Army is prepared to transport staff and their mobile transmitter if requested before May 1st to do so.

2. We are in favour of this move which should also commend itself to Transjordan Government. Present communications with Amman pass through Jerusalem and are likely to be cut. Proposed evacuation would provide wireless telegraphy link with entire Cable and Wireless system via Cyprus or United Kingdom.

3. If you see no objection please approach Transjordan authorities with request that permission be granted for temporary establishment of transmitter on Transjordan territory.

4. Grateful for early reply.

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INWARD TELEGRAM.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

1849

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 22nd April, 1948.

R. 23rd " " 02.00 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1085. Secret.

Addressed to the Secretary of State.

Repeated Amman No. 1133.

B.M.E.O. No. 58.

UKDEL,

New York No. 1134 (Washington please pass).

Your telegram No. 1544 containing Foreign Office telegram No. 231 to Amman, not repeated to UKDEL.

Move of Cable and Wireless to Amman.

I should have liked to be consulted on this matter which has been under discussion here for some time. At the time of move TELECOMMUNICATIONS from Jerusalem will be cut for at least two days unless wireless link with Haifa now being tried out can be established. This link with Haifa and later with Amman would suffice to carry Government traffic only, so that press and other messages from Jerusalem would not be handled or only with great delay. Police wireless net is already overloaded since almost all land lines are out of operation. Army cannot assist and their signals unit is now split between Jerusalem and Haifa.

2. Importance of cutting out Jerusalem from communication with the outside world in four days' time should be recognised, particularly at this stage.

Distributed to:-

R. 243

Secretary of State

P.S. to Minister of State

Sir T. Lloyd

Mr. Rees-Williams

Sir S. Caine

Sir C. Jeffries

Mr. Holding

Mr. Martin

Mr. Trafford Smith

Mr. Gutch

Mr. Nicholson

Mr. Eighan

Mr. Galworthy

Mr. Holmer

Mr. Dale

Mr. Bigg Mr. Hall.

Mr. Townshend.

Mr. R.D. Spinney.

General Post Office -

Foreign -

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1948

5012

28 APR 1948

Registry Number } E5312/1260/31

FROM Mr. Mitchell
General Post Office
No. 21409/45

Dated to Mr. Spinney
22nd April
Received in Registry } 28th "

Palestine, Cable and Wireless.

Refers to meeting at which position of Cable and Wireless Ltd. in Palestine was discussed. In view of a recent announcement that the British Government will accept no responsibility for non-resident British subjects remaining in Palestine, Cable and Wireless have asked for an assurance that arrangements will be made with the British Military authorities for the evacuation of members of Cable and Wireless mobile staff who remain in Haifa until the withdrawal of British forces is completed. Asks whether this assurance may be given.

Last Paper

5037

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]
14/7/48

Next Paper

E 5401

(Minutes.)

Spoken to G.P.O. This has all been settled up with Cable & Wireless.

JBA 30

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Telephone: HEADQUARTERS 1234
Extn.: **4430**
Telegrams: Gentel Cent London
P.O. Reference 21409/45
Your Reference



OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT,

GENERAL POST OFFICE,

LONDON, E.C.1.

E. 5512
22 April, 1948.

28 APR 1948

Dear Mr. Spinney,

You will remember that at the meeting last Monday at which the position of Cable and Wireless Ltd., in Palestine was discussed, it was agreed that the Company should continue to operate in Haifa for as long as possible while British Forces remain there.

In view of a recent announcement that the British Government will accept no responsibility for non-resident British subjects remaining in Palestine, Cable and Wireless have asked for an assurance that arrangements will be made with the British Military Authorities for the evacuation of members of Cable and Wireless mobile staff who remain in Haifa until the withdrawal of our Forces is completed.

I should be glad to know whether we may give the Company this assurance.

I am sending copies of this letter to Mr. Webster and Mr. Hall (Colonial Office).

Yours sincerely,

J. Mitchell

G.D. Spinney Esq.,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

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E

5402

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1948

29 APR 1948

Registry Number E5402/1260/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Sir A. Kirkbride
No. (AMMAN)

241 Secret
Dated 23.4.48.

Received in Registry 29.4.48.

Telecommunications in Palestine.

Repeated to B.M.E.O. and Jerusalem.

Refers to Foreign Office telegram No. 231 (5037/1260/3) Transjordan Government would welcome presence of a Cable and Wireless Mobile Unit in Amman and request that unit should establish itself here as soon as possible.

Last Paper.

5401

(Minutes)

3 p.m.

References.

Mr. Spinney of the General Department has informed Cable and Wireless of this reply from the Transjordan Government and the Company are going ahead with their arrangements to move the "blue train" to Transjordan. In deference to requests from journalists and broadcasting associations the Government of Palestine have arranged for Cable and Wireless to leave a communications link in Jerusalem until May 6th and the "blue train" will move about that date.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S. Miss P. Budget
Telecommunications Dept
G.P.O.
w/oy B.

Mr. Spinney has also asked Cable and Wireless to see that their people in Transjordan keep a close watch for any messages from Jerusalem which may require retransmission, since it is possible that the means of communication left in Jerusalem after May 6th will not achieve direct contact with London.

J.G.S. Beith

General Department

(J.G.S. Beith)
3rd May, 1948.

The G.P.O. informed me on the 30th April that Cable & Wireless (London) had instructed their staff in Cyprus and Jerusalem (the latter will later move to Amman) to keep watch for any messages sent from Jerusalem.

G.D. [G.D. Spinney]
6/5/48.

JB May 7

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

[Handwritten signatures and dates]

Next Paper.

5403

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E 1037 / 260 / 71

Cent. Sec. P. Secy
E 5105 / 53
24 APR 1948
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Cypher/OTP

~~DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION~~

FROM AMMAN TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir A. Kirkbride
No. 241
April 23rd, 1948.

D. 2.44 p.m. April 23rd, 1948.
R. 3.55 p.m. April 23rd, 1948.

Repeated to British Middle East Office and Jerusalem

IMMEDIATE
SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 241
April 23rd, repeated for information to British Middle
East Office and Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 231. - E

Transjordan Government would welcome presence of
a Cable and Wireless Mobile Unit in Amman and request
that unit should establish itself here as soon as possible.

24 APR 1948
Foreign Office
London

SSSSS

E 5402
29 APR 1948

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E

E 5403 St
29 APR 1948

1948

Registry Number | E5403/1260/31

FROM Mr. Jones
(U.S. Embassy) to
No. Mr. Burrows.

Dated 23.4.48.
Received in Registry 29.4.48.

Removal of Cable and Wireless equipments from Jerusalem.

Gives the text of a telegram dated 22nd April from the State Department regarding the above. Wishes to know when the Foreign Office are ready to discuss this matter.

Last Paper

5402

References

W. 2317/307/801

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

J. L. M. 13/4 *[Signature]*

Next Paper

5489

See within (Minutes.)
Palentine tel. to E.O. no 1103 Apr. 23.
C.O. tel. to Palestine no 1609 - Apr. 23.
In Jackson (N.Z.C.) to the Recorder, Apr. 23
2.0. Minute - the Spinney - Apr. 24
the Dealer (The Times) - Apr. 26

Action taken: tel. to Jerusalem sent for C.O. to despatch J. L. M.

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Minutes.

55

Mr. Beith.

Please see attached letter which has been followed during to-day by telephone calls urging us to do something about the problem. In your absence and in discussion with Mr. Balfour and Mr. Jones (United States Embassy) it was suggested that a Technical Sub-Committee might be asked urgently to see what we could possibly do in the circumstances to help.

The C.B.S. correspondents tell me that all the correspondents appear to be staying on in Palestine. One of the C.B.S. Vice-Presidents, Mr. Davidson Taylor, is now in London, having just arrived from Palestine. According to him, there are two or three small power transmitters available which could be used for "voice casts".

I think we should do all that is possible to help the B.B. C. and the American networks to get their news out of Palestine.

W. Riddell

27th April, 1948.

Since Lewis Jones' visit we have had a reply showing that the High Commissioner has made arrangements for C & W to maintain a reduced service in Jerusalem down to the 6th May. This should relieve the pressure on us. I have informed Mr Riddell & also Mr Jones and the US Telecommunications Attaché, Mr McIntyre.

*J Balfour
27/4*

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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5037 1200 11

5403
29 APR 1948

AMERICAN EMBASSY
1 Grosvenor Square,
London, W.1.
April 23, 1948.

RESTRICTED

INDEXED

Dear Bernard:

We have received a telegram dated April 23, from the Department of State reading as follows:

"The Department has been informed that Cable and Wireless plans the removal of its radio equipment from Jerusalem by May 15. If these plans are carried out there will be no reliable communication available after that date. Cutting off the Jerusalem and Palestine area from adequate communication with the outside world during critical period of intense world interest would be very hazardous from general security standpoint and leave the world without accurate information on what was happening. The Department is endeavoring to augment radio facilities at the American Consulate Jerusalem but is highly doubtful this can be done by May 15 and will be inadequate in any event. Maintaining international communications with Palestine is considered essential. Please advise the Foreign Office and urge the Foreign Office to take immediate steps to have Cable and Wireless continue the operation of its Jerusalem station until reliable communications can be otherwise provided."

I hope that you will let me know as soon as you are ready to talk about the foregoing.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Lewis Jones

Bernard Burrows, Esquire,
Head, Eastern Department,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

5403 1260 31

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 23rd April, 1948.

R. 25th " " "

22.40 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

INDEXED

No. 1103 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.

Repeated to Washington, No. 286.

" " U.K. Delegation, No. 1155 (Washington please pass).

" " Amman, No. 1154.

" " B.M.E.O. Cairo, No. 10.

My telegram No. 1085.

Telecommunications.

It has not been possible to establish wireless link with Cable and Wireless at Haifa since their unit has been overrun in the present disturbances. I am endeavouring to arrange for Jerusalem unit to remain here operating mobile set only from 23th April which would mean that they would not move to Amman until later.

2. As already reported, Lydda airport may close 29th April. Do you contemplate air mail to Palestine ceasing then?

3. Since above was drafted, it has been arranged that Jerusalem unit will remain here temporarily and move to Amman just before 6th May. I hope that Foreign Office unit will be in use for Government messages within few days but see no way of avoiding 2 days break in press traffic while Cable and Wireless move.

Copies sent to:-

G.P.O.

Foreign Office

-

-

Mr. Townshend.

Mr. R.D. Spinney.

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

58

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

75872/152/31/48

5403 460 31

Cyprus (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent 23rd April, 1948. 20.45 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

INDEXED

No. 1609 Secret

Addressed to High Commissioner for Palestine,
Repeated to UKDEL, New York.
" " Amman.
" " B.H.K.O.

Your telegram No. 1688, repeated UKDEL No. 1191
Amman No. 1483, B.H.K.O. No. 58.

Telegram 1994 was sent as result of telegram
from Cable and Wireless Jerusalem office sent after
consulting civil and military authorities stating that
military must be informed before any assistance in
evacuation to Transjordan or Egypt was required. No date
for move was mentioned and it was assumed this would be
latest possible consistent with safe movement. I had
assumed that you had been fully consulted.

Cable and Wireless are eager to operate in
Jerusalem as long as safety of staff and equipment can be
guaranteed and arrangements made to evacuate them when
this becomes necessary. Company have given local manager
instructions that safety of staff and equipment must be
first consideration. If you can satisfy local manager at
this point Company have no objection to continued operation
in Jerusalem.

In event of evacuation Company would prefer
to move to Amman where link might still be of some use.

I should be grateful to have further
arrangements and considered satisfactory.

(Copies sent to Foreign Office for consideration to
New York, Amman and B.H.K.O. Office)

Copies sent to:

- O.T.P. (Cyprus Telecommunications Dept.)
- Foreign Office
- Cable and Wireless Ltd.
- Mr. Townshend
- Mr. Spence
- Mr. J. Lockley

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Reference:- FO 371/68654

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59

NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.

A SERVICE OF RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA

43 BERKELEY SQUARE

LONDON. W. 1.

5703 1260 31

MERRILL MUELLER
MANAGER, LONDON OFFICE

23rd April, 1948.

GROSVENOR 3150
GROSVENOR 1905

Dear Rids,

INDEXED

The BBC and the undersigned have received an appeal by identical telegrams, from our respective correspondents in the area, to urge the early inauguration of some form of British-operated service from Jerusalem to replace the commercially operated Cable & Wireless system which is withdrawing May 1st next.

In our view, and the view of our correspondents in the area, it is vitally important that communications for press and radio be maintained from Jerusalem after May 1st, and after the expiry of the mandate and withdrawal of British forces. This is as vital to Britain as to other countries in the world. Our correspondents have suggested a system whereby such communication can be maintained by utilizing British equipment and technical personnel already on the spot, provided the British Foreign Office cooperates.

Our identical cables state that press and radio correspondents in Jerusalem area are making arrangements locally to relay the signal of a new British transmitter via Amman to London and the United States. They describe this new transmitter, an X399 in Army parlance, as "belonging to the British Community". We believe it is that allocated to Sir Hugh Dow. The transmitter and a British technician are already on the spot, but its operation depends on a frequency allocation from the Foreign Office which the technician tells our correspondents he is now awaiting.

The Jerusalem correspondents (Anglo-American), if the Foreign Office approves a policy permitting them to use this transmitter, intend to broadcast news, and send morse copy, to our respective countries on specified daily periods of time allocated to press and radio. The signal of this small transmitter would easily carry the local distance to Amman where the Cable & Wireless operated "Blue Train" will later be located. This "Blue Train" is an Army mobile transmitter that is large and cumbersome and is being withdrawn for safety. But its new location, Amman, indicates it is intended to service such British radio facilities as remain in Jerusalem after Cable & Wireless's withdrawal. The "Blue Train's" power is such that it would greatly boost the signal of the X399 from Jerusalem, and this suggested relay system is the only means of maintaining direct communication with Jerusalem.

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We understand that Mr. Barker, editor of the Foreign News Division of the BBC, has already discussed this verbally with you and with Mr. Orchard, the Communications Expert of the Foreign Office.

Could you please use your good offices to expedite the allocation of the frequency mentioned above, and the policy of allowing this transmitter for press and radio use. You will understand it takes some time to synchronise a radio-relay system from new locations and several days' test will be required before both the X399 and the "Blue Train" will be in faultless, usable operation.

Please advise at your earliest opportunity and call upon us at any time for any possible assistance we may be able to render.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Jackson

Allan Jackson,
Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.

Merrill Mueller
Merrill Mueller,
National Broadcasting Co., Inc.

copy to Mr. Barker, BBC Foreign News.

Mr. Wm. Ridsdale,
Foreign Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

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Minutes.

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COPY

5403 1260 31

The following is the text of an announcement to be made by Cable & Wireless to all their stations:

"With the exception of Jerusalem, and until further advised, cease accepting all traffic to Palestine except Government and urgent press. Government and urgent press will be subject to indefinite delay. Traffic to Jerusalem still subject to previous restrictions."

INDEXED

G.D. SPINNEY

24/4

(Copy for Eastern Dept.)

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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THE ~~Times~~ TIMES ⁶²

5403 1200 31

MEMORANDUM FROM *12 uph Deakin*
to Mr. McDonald.

April 26, 1948.

~~INDEXED~~

I wonder whether you care to mention to the Foreign Office the fact that everything points to our correspondence from Palestine being interrupted very soon. The Cable and wireless people have apparently decided not to leave their installation in Palestine to be seized by Jews or Arabs. Caminada is determined to remain as long as he can.

An SOS from the correspondents has gone to the NPA, but the question remains whether the Foreign Office is inclined to take up the question of press interests with Dow, the U.K. representative in Jerusalem. It might be helpful if the seriousness of an interruption of news from Palestine were mentioned to the F.O.

R.D.

Copy to the Editor.

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425821

ONE TIME PAD

Recd. 30 Apr '48.

D.T.O. 291230 B Apr.

From:- C. in C. MELF.

To:- The War Office.

IMMEDIATE.

RESTRICTED. PR/71975.

For D.D.P.A. from D.D.P.R. Ref your PR(Co-ord) (B) 100/MISC/1835

of 27 Apr.

One. Understand FMG Jerusalem endeavouring arrange cable and wireless link stays Jerusalem till 6 May with blue train moving to Amman about that date. Line communication possible from Amman to Jericho if not Jerusalem.

Two. , No Army apparatus available sole use of press messages. X

Three. Signals have put one SCR 399 wireless set at disposal civil in Jerusalem for civil emergency. ?

Four. One SCR 399 has been installed in military compound Haifa for cable and wireless for civil emergency.

Five. Cable and wireless submarine cable Haifa fully guarded until final military withdrawal.

Six. Suggest NPA approach FMG through Colonial Office with view assist in staffing two sets mentioned in paras three and four.

Seven. Sigs Directorate has full details crewing SCR 399.

Eight. CSO has fully explored FMG regrets unable assist further.

Message Control.

Distribution by DDPR.

Copies to:- DD Sigs (Weapons).
DD Sigs (Telecommunication).
Foreign Office (News Division - Mr Price).
Colonial Office (Middle East Division - Mr Matheson).

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1948

POSTIVE

5775
6 MAY 1948

Registry Number } E5775/1260/31

FROM Mr Jones (U.S. Embassy) to Mr Beith

No.

Dated

Received in Registry } 28.4.48.
6.5.48.

Broadcasting equipment in Jerusalem

Encloses memorandum drawn up as the result of a conversation between Mr W. MacIntyre and Mr Taylor, Vice President of the Columbia Broad-casting Corporation, suggesting that it might be useful as a background to the meeting on April 29th.

Last Paper

5489

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

J. P. [signature]

(Index)

[signature]

Next Paper

5776

(Minutes.)

See E 5776

to May 6

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enter 6

5, 75

6 MAY 1948

AMERICAN EMBASSY
London, W.1.
April 28, 1948.

RESTRICTED

Dear John:

Bill MacIntyre, our Telecommunications Attache, had a long talk last night with Mr. Taylor, Vice President of Columbia Broadcasting Corp. Mr. Taylor left Jerusalem on April 23, and appears to be very knowledgeable. Bill made the enclosed memorandum of conversation with the thought that it might be useful to you as background for our meeting at 3:30 p.m. April 29. It seems possible that the "Mr. Jordan" mentioned in paragraph 3 of the memorandum might also have some information.

Bill made it clear to Mr. Taylor that this Embassy has as yet received no instructions to take up with the Foreign Office assistance to journalists and broadcasters, and that in discussing the matter with Mr. Taylor his only purpose was to elicit further information which might be of use to the Foreign Office.

With best wishes.

Lewis Jones

John Beith, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
The Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

P.S. All the information in this is Taylor's.

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1. The U.S. broadcasters in Jerusalem are rated as three good men:
 - a. Farnsworth Fowle, CBS; experienced on near-east affairs; Rhodes scholar, Exeter College
 - b. Jehn Denevan, NBC
 - c. Richard Williams, BBC; accompanied by Angell, his engineer
2. The Jewish Agency has no facilities to transmit out of Jerusalem - but they would seem to like to have some. Walter Leurie, the Hagenah communications man, told CBS that he had nothing to offer - but that if he could track down any transmitters (see below), he would try to capture them.
3. The British civilians who must remain behind will have to provide their own security, and their own communications outlet. They have employed a British citizen who worked for the Palestine electric light company to set up the communications for them. Mr. Jordan, of the Foreign Office, made the arrangements for them; he is now in London - was at Strand Palace.
4. The No. 19 transmitter is a police control type, local range only - perhaps 10 to 20 miles. There are 5 of these, which will be installed as follows:
 - 1 in the residence of the British representative at Damascus Gate (very easy to capture)
 - 1 in St. Georges Cathedral (Anglican) and the Cathedral close. This is where the British will be housed. Also 10 US correspondents, if they desire it.
 - 1 in St. Andrews Hospital
 - 2 undecided as of 4/24/48
5. Also in the residence of the British representative at Damascus Gate will be 2 No. 399 transmitters. This is a US made set, possibly RCA. Short Wave. About 500 w. output. Can have as power supply a generator driven by a jeep motor - which, using 25 gals/day, introduces the gasoline supply problem.

The 2 No. 399 can be set up this way: -

 - a. 1 will be set up and used for British communications with the outside world, principally for service messages. This is Morse code, manual key transmission. No voice transmission. Correspondents have been promised one pooled

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message of 200 - 500 words/day. FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENT IS REQUIRED.

- b. 1 could be used for voice transmission, and would be operated only at specified time for news broadcast. 11:45 AM to 12 noon with repeat 12 noon to 12:15 (GMT). FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENT IS REQUIRED.
6. If voice transmission of 5 (b) can be worked out, there are 5 possibilities of pickup and "live" relay:
- a. At Amman, via C&W's "Blue Train" mobile equipment, thence to London & New York. However, the question of Arab censorship arises. Also, there is no assurance that the Blue Train will ever get into operation at Amman - capture by Arabs.
 - b. At Cyprus; via C&W transmitters to London
 - c. Rome
 - d. Cairo - but would be subject to Arab censorship
 - e. Ankara, where there are two 20 KW transmitters. The engineer (#3 above) feels that, all conditions being favorable, the No. 399 could reach London with voice transmission - but this is probably optimistic.
7. In the US Consulate in Jerusalem there is a No. 399 transmitter and one operator. These are Morse transmissions only (no voice) and all must be in/code. (Dep't. regs?) Transmissions are one morning hour, and one afternoon hour, to Teheran. At Teheran they pick up a transmitter to Washington direct. The Consul-General has offered the US correspondents a pooled message of 200 - 400 words/day but, since it would be enciphered, the submitted message would have to be paraphrased. (Is this a true statement?)
8. At Ramallah there is a medium wave transmitter of the Palestine broadcast service. Arabs now control this point. It is possible - rather remote - that this station could be monitored outside.
9. The transmitters of the Palestine police force are too small to reach beyond Palestine.
10. At Haifa, C&W was building a transmitter to carry voice beyond Palestine. Construction was stopped on 4-22-48. It would

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RESTRICTED 60

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require a long time - possibly some months - to complete this installation.

11. At Tel Aviv, there is a small medium wave transmitter, property of the Hagenah, which will work as far as Jerusalem.
12. R.C.A.C. hopes to start installing a communications transmitter in Jerusalem, starting work about June 15.
13. There is a radio amateur in Tel Aviv who is in constant communication with another radio amateur in New York. But the US (FCC) laws operate against possibility of using this channel. Besides, Jewish censorship.

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5770

1948

PALESTINE

6 MAY 1948

Registry Number } E5776/1260/31
 FROM Foreign Office Minute
 No. Mr J.S. BEITH
 Dated 5.5.48.
 Received in Registry } 5.5.48.

Communications from Jerusalem
 Records meeting which was held in the Foreign Office on April 29th, at which Mr Lewis Jones and Mr MacIntyre of the U.S. Embassy were present together with Mr Price, Mr Thomas and Mr Spinney. Attaches letter to Colonial Office containing draft of telegram to Jerusalem.

Last Paper

5775

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten initials]

Next Paper

5848

[Handwritten notes]
 (Minutes.)
 Attach tel. as sent by
 Co. JB May 6
 See within copy of telegram to Palestine 1820 by
 JB May 10
 See within:
 Tel. Palestine - C.O. 1287 of May 7.
 Renewal Dept. (Mr Spinney)
 You recall that we spoke
 to News Dept. about the
 pernicious D.T. article
 JB May 12
 Yes. I informed Mr. Townshend
 (G.P.O.) of the action taken; he will no
 doubt mention it informally to Cable & Windsor
 J.S.
 22/5
 JB May 25

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Registry
No.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft. TELEGRAM

To:
High Commissioner,
Jerusalem.

From:
Colonial Office.

New Sept.
agree
JB May 3

70

Telegram PR/ ⁷¹⁹⁷⁵ ~~71975~~ from C. in C.

Middle East to the War Office dated April 29th states that after Cable and Wireless move to Transjordan on May 6th no army apparatus will be available for the sole use of press messages, but that one SCR 399 wireless set will be at the disposal "of civil ⁱⁿ Jerusalem for civil emergency" and that a similar set has been installed in the military compound at Haifa.

2. We understand that local correspondents are making arrangements to serve whatever transmitting facilities may be ~~made~~ available to them and this seems to be a reasonable arrangement. Diplomatic wireless set to be used by the Consulate will not be available for press messages and we shall be glad if you will do your best in co-operation with the military authorities to enable correspondents to continue sending their messages. It is important that American correspondents should be allowed to share any facilities ~~arranged~~ ^{arranged} for British correspondents/

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correspondents and we understand that this is
being done.

3. Please inform Beaumont for his guidance.

We recognise that position will be extremely
difficult but hope that a news back out
can be avoided.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Minutes.

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Communications from Jerusalem
MAY 1948

A meeting was held in my room in the Foreign Office on April 29th at which the following were present: Mr. Lewis Jones and Mr. MacIntyre of the American Embassy, Mr. Price of the News Department, Mr. Thomas of the Communications Department and Mr. Spinney of the General Department.

We dealt first with the question of official communications from Jerusalem. Mr. Thomas explained briefly what we were doing in the way of a diplomatic wireless installation and we made it clear to the representatives of the American Embassy that this link would not be available for press messages in the same way as the Embassy suggested that their Consulate set might be. The difficulties were, briefly, the fact that a flood of press messages always coincided with a period of stress when the official link was crowded out by Government traffic and ~~the~~ distributing "pooled messages" at the other end.

the problem of

Passing on to the question of separate facilities for press and broadcasting, we made it clear to the American Embassy that we wanted to do our best to help within the limits of the equipment and manpower available in Jerusalem. I explained that there was no question of Cable and Wireless representatives remaining on in Jerusalem after May 6th (the date of their departure having been extended by about a week). There seemed however to be a good chance that the local correspondents would make their own arrangements about staffing transmitters and that our military authorities would be able to help them out over equipment.

Since this meeting Mr. Price has been in close touch with Brigadier Cross of the War Office Public Relations Department, who has ~~now~~ produced the attached message from the C. in C. Middle East. This message is rather vague and I think we should now get the Colonial Office to send a telegram to Jerusalem on the lines of the attached draft.

I am sending copies of this minute and the draft to Mr. Mathieson and Mr. Hall of the Colonial Office and to Brigadier Cross at the War Office.

J.G.S. Beith

(J.G.S. Beith)
3rd May, 1948.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

10-172

75872/154/31

5776 1260 31

Code

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent 4th May, 1948. 16.45 hrs.

IMPORTANT

EXEM

No. 1820 Restricted.

Telegram PR/71975 from C. in C., Middle East to the War Office dated 29th April states that after Cable and Wireless move to Trans-Jordan on 6th May no army apparatus will be available for the sole use of press messages, but that one SCR 399 wireless set will be at the disposal "of civil in Jerusalem for civil emergency" and that a similar set has been installed in the military compound at Haifa.

2. I understand that local correspondents are making arrangements to serve whatever transmitting facilities may be available to them and this seems to be a reasonable arrangement. Diplomatic wireless set to be used by the Consulate will not be available for press messages and I shall be glad if you will do your best in co-operation with the military authorities to assist correspondents to make arrangements for continued transmission of press messages. It is important that American correspondents should be allowed to share any facilities arranged for British correspondents and we understand that this is being done.

3. Please inform Beaumont for his guidance. I recognise that position will be extremely difficult but hope that a news black-out can be avoided.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. J.G.S. Beith.
" " News Division.

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C B.
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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

5776 1260 31.

Cypher (O.T.) ~~INDEXED~~

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 7th May, 1948.
R. 7th " " 16.45 hrs.

No. 1287 Confidential.

My telegram No. 1158.

Move of Cable and Wireless Ltd. from Jerusalem
to Amman.

Representatives of the Foreign press in Jerusalem have severely criticised Fermiston-Evans, who is in charge of the Jerusalem unit, on the grounds that original scheme for the move to Amman, not later than 6th May, had been planned by himself owing to personal apprehensions, and without regard to continuity of communications available for the press.

2. As you know, original plan was framed on military considerations of the withdrawal. It had to be altered owing to subsequent developments of which you are also aware, and which, of course, had nothing to do with Fermiston-Evans.

3. Person named states, however, that the press complaints have reached the U.K. and have resulted in the displeasure of his directors and even the personal censure of the Mayor. I am concerned that he should not be blamed unjustly, and am taking steps to rectify matters here. I should be grateful, however, if you would make the position quite clear to his directors.

Copies sent to:-
Foreign Office - Communications Dept.

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02.97 74
17 MAY 1948

194

Registry Number | E6297/1260/31

TELEGRAM FROM
Mr. Beaumont
No. Jerusalem.

Dated 15th May

Received 17th May

in Registry

E: Palestine

Message for the Quai d'Orsay from the French Consulate reporting that their radio is out of action.

Gives the text of a message which the French Consulate has requested shall be passed to the Quai d'Orsay.

(Repeated to Paris).

Last Paper.

E 6088 ~~6088~~

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tel. Paris 1531
May 15.

(Action completed.)

Cad
4/11

Index

~~10/11~~
14/1/48

Next Paper.

6481.

Minutes

Western B 2/5
Hahn Tel. to Paris
16 May 18

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DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

75

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

7 MAY 1948

Mr. Beaumont
No: 8

D.3.16.p.m.15th May 1948

15th May 1948

R.4.29.p.m.15th May 1948

MOST IMMEDIATE

French Consul-General has asked me to transmit following most immediate to Quai d'Orsay.

[Begins].

French Consulate radio hit by small arms fire and out of action.

No communication except with British Consulate by telephone. Two members of staff slightly wounded. Remainder all well.

[Ends].

2. I should be grateful if the above could be passed on as I have undertaken to do so. I have received messages on the 399 set through Haifa from Paredi to French Consul-General which I have passed on. I have pointed out however that I am quite unable to take over their communications requirements. I will however continue to send them short messages by telephone so long as system remains intact.

[Repeated to Paris. See also Foreign Office telegram No: 1551 to Paris].

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

X:X:X:

17 MAY 1948
M I F
D.A.A.M.

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Registry
No. *E. 6297/1260/31*

Date *15/5*
Despatched *7-22 PM* **76**

Top Secret
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Most immediate

Add. Paris file No 1531 of
15th May.

Rpt. Jerusalem.

Draft. *File*
Paris 1531

Rpt. Jerusalem
(murder)
Cm claim.
May 15th

Dept.
(Eastern)

My immediately following
telegram ~~is~~ is a repetition of
a ~~copy~~ Jerusalem telegram.

Please pass the message
in its paragraph 1 to the
Quai d'Orsay.

[Copy sent to the Secretariat]

Gov.
15/5

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(2/47) (14728). Wt 11489-144 250m 5/47 G.S.S.

RECEIVED IN O.B.
17 MAY 1948
SENT TO DEP.

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Σ6297/1260/31

En Clair

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No. 1531

15th May, 1948. D. 7.22 p.m. 15th May, 1948.
Repeated to Jerusalem No. 9 (Immediate).

MOST IMMEDIATE

Addressed to Paris telegram No. 1531 of 15th May
repeated to Jerusalem.

My immediately following telegram is a repetition
of a Jerusalem telegram. Please pass the message in
its paragraph 1 to the Quai d' Orsay.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

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0

E

E 0 81

1948

19 MAY 1943

Registry Number E6481/1260/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Mr. Beaumont
No. JERUSALEM
22

Dated 17th May
Received in Registry 19th "

Jerusalem, British Wireless Set.

Refers Foreign Office telegram No, 10 dated 15th May (E6088/1260/31) Set belongs to the British Community and is worked by the Ministry of Works representative in his spare time. Replies in detail to telegram under reference with regard to the use to be made of this set and responsibility for news transmitted.

Last Paper.

6297

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

I am sorry Mr B. took our instructions amiss. He is having a very sticky time and our (quite reasonable) advice was drafted before the fighting started

NHEB 24/5
Mass Sept.
ME D
m 13

D. S. Bevil
May 20

B May 28

(Action completed.)

Coal
28/5

(Index)

14/5

Next Paper.

E6759

32008 F.O.P.

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE E 10 81

Mr Beaumont
No. 22

D. 3.55 pm. 17th May, 1948
R. 6.03 pm. 17th May, 1948.

17th May, 1948.

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegrams Nos. 10 [grp.undec.] 399.

Wireless.

Set belongs to the British community and is worked by the Ministry of Works representative here in his spare time. I give him a good deal of this in order to content the press and as a result we are on the most excellent terms.

2. Remarks to which you take exception were (a) made in confidence for his personal information to a man we can trust (b) intended to convey that the British community would not pay for transmission day after day of material which was untrue or wilfully misrepresented the conduct of His Majesty's Government or His Majesty's forces in Palestine (e.g. by certain United States correspondents), (c) intended to show that we would need material after but not before [grp.undec] since because the set is in our premises we must be presumed to represent the British community in this respect. It is also the most valuable source of news.

3. The United States correspondents are as you will have seen, using their own consulate wireless and Jewish facilities and in view of our nearer relations with the British press I do not think any useful purpose would be served if I tried to correct the unfortunate impression which you appear to think my remarks may have made. I will however take care that in the event of any news derogatory to [grp.undec.? His Majesty's Government] having been filed and transmitted, the question of future facilities for the offender shall be decided by the British community and not (repeat not) by this Consulate. I will inform them of your wishes that the greatest freedom shall be given to the press but I can scarcely believe you would wish me to force their hand should they decide to withhold facilities.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

666



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E

80

E. 7035

1948

PALESTINE

7 JUN 1948

Registry Number | E 7035/1260/31

TELEGRAM FROM
Gen. Bennett
(Haifa)

No. 72

Dated 5 June

Received in Registry 7 June

Communications in Palestine

Provisional Government of Palestine Israel has appointed FRIEDBERG, director general of posts & telegraphs. Gen. Bennett considers that frequencies & wavelengths should be allocated to Palestine. This will involve co-operation with Friedman. Enquiries whether there is any political objection.

Last Paper.

7522

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 Palestine dist. June 9
(4/15/48)

Tel Haifa 118 June 14

9 Palestine dist. June 16
(4/15/48)

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E 8669

(Minutes.)

General Dept. for urgent obs

I spoke to Mr Blackwell
B June 8

The Communications Board, Middle East is composed of representatives of the three Services plus representatives of M.C.A., C.W. Ptel. Marconi's etc. & their function is to allot frequencies & wavelengths in that area. The frequencies in Palestine are required for all purposes for which radio is used; and the alternative to the Board allocating ^{the wavelengths} ~~them~~ which would ensure an orderly arrangement, would be for the State of Israel to operate their transmitters on any frequency or wavelength

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wavelength they conceived workable,
thus causing chaos all round the
Middle East.

It is therefore to our advantage
that the necessary frequencies & wavelengths
should be allotted to Palestine and in giving to the proposal,
we might suggest to Mr. Merritt
that in order to avoid any implication
of recognition, the signal channel
between the Board & the technical
authorities in the State of Israel
should be entirely on an
unofficial basis.

Mr. Blackwell

still "vast advantage" is 8.6.48
somewhat exaggerated. I suggest
we can instruct Mr Merritt on
the lines proposed by Mr Blackwell
Draft

J. S. Benn
June 8

Re-draft J.S.B.

Sent J.S. Benn 10.6

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Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION.

FROM HAIFA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Marriott.
No. 72.

D. 5.5 p.m. 5th June 1948.

5th June 1948.

R. 10.25 a.m. 7th June 1948.
(via War Office).

IMMEDIATE.

E 7038

Communications Board Middle East **JUN 1948**
Chairman is Chief Signal Officer M.E.L.F. is
represented here by the Chairman of the Palestine
sub-committee who is Brigadier Kennet on staff of
General Officer Commanding. Provisional Government
of State of Israel has appointed Friedberg Director
General of [gp. undec. ? P.T.T.]. Before leaving
Brigadier Kennet considers it desirable to allot
frequencies and wavelengths for use in Palestine.
This will involve correspondence between C.B.M.E.
and Friedberg in his "official" capacity. Have you
any objection on political grounds in view of the
vast advantage to be gained. Request immediate
reply.

W:W:W:W:W



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Registry
No. E 7635/1260/31.

~~XXXXXX~~
~~XXXX~~
Confidential.
~~XXXXXX~~
~~XXXX~~

11/6.

FILE
CYPHER
F.O.

82

Despatched 14/6 194 . M.

Draft.

HAIFA

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

Telegram.

No. 118

(Date) June 14

Repeat to:—

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Cren. Dept. agree

~~XXXXXX~~
~~XXXX~~
Cypher.

Distribution:—

DEPARTMENTAL

Copies to:—

1. Palestine distr.

Your telegram No. 75 [of June 5th:
Allocation of Wavelengths for Palestine].

It would certainly be valuable for wave-
lengths to be allocated but it seems that it
might be difficult to do so without committing
ourselves to some extent to endorsing the idea
of partition. Moreover I imagine that the
Jewish radio services are at present far
better organised and more numerous than those
on the Arab side so that any allocation
based on the present position might turn out
to be unfair to the Arabs. In order that the
matter may be further considered please
telegraph on what basis allocation would be
made and if possible some indication of the
present and potential requirements of each
side. Would the wavelengths be allotted
to individual stations or globally to each
side? With whom would correspondence be
on the Arab side?
2. Correspondence with Jewish authorities
would in any case have to be strictly
unofficial.

BARB

14.6

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83

Cypher/OTP.

No. E 7635/1260/51.

Confidential.

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO HAIFA.

No. 118.

D. 9.20 p.m. 14th June 1948.

14th June 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Your telegram No.75 [of June 5th:
Allocation of wavelengths for Palestine].

It would certainly be valuable for wavelengths to be allocated but it seems that it might be difficult to do so without committing ourselves to some extent to endorsing the idea of partition. Moreover I imagine that the Jewish radio services are at present far better organised and more numerous than those on the Arab side so that any allocation based on the present position might turn out to be unfair to the Arabs. In order that the matter may be further considered please telegraph on what basis allocation would be made and if possible some indication of the present and potential requirements of each side. Would the wavelengths be allotted to individual stations or globally to each side? With whom would correspondence be on the Arab side?

2. Correspondence with Jewish authorities would in any case have to be strictly unofficial.

W:W:W:W:W

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243.

E

E. 8669

84

1948

28 JUN 1948

3711

Registry Number E8669/1260/31

FROM HAIFA
(Mr Marriott)

No. 19 (22/1/1)

Dated -----

Received in Registry 28 Jun 48

Obstacles placed in the way of British subjects leaving Palestine, and of holders of British passports being forced to enlist in the "Jewish Army".

Encloses copy of letter to the Mayor of Haifa protesting about treatment of British subjects and a copy of the reply, stating that the matter is being taken up.

Last Paper

E. 7635
~~E. 6776~~

(Minutes.)

a. a. Russell
21/6

References

Mr. Russell.
/ 47.23.vi.
Eastern Dept

3pp

47.23.vi.

(Print)

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(Action completed)

(Index)

G. M. 1948

14/2/48

Next Paper

E 8670.

34925

85

E 8069

22/1/1.

28 JUN 1948

No.19.

His Britannic Majesty's Consul General at Haifa presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit the accompanying documents -

Reference to previous correspondence.

No.and date.	Subject.
1. Copy of letter of 31st May,1948, to the Mayor of Haifa.	Obstacles being placed in the way of United Kingdom British Subjects.
2. Copy of Reply of 1st June,1948.	<i>Ami</i>

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Copy.

85A

British Consulate General,
Haifa.

31st May, 1948.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that it has been brought to my notice that obstacles are being placed in the way of U.K. British subjects, the holders of British passports, leaving Palestine and, at least in one case, that U.K. British subjects, holders of British passports, are being forcibly enlisted in the "Jewish Army". It is my duty to inform you that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom cannot tolerate this and to request Your Worship to take such steps as may be necessary to make this fact known.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) C. Marriott,
H.B.L. Consul General.

His Worship
The Mayor of
Haifa.

Copy to:- Chief of Staff.
G.S.

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Copy.

Municipal Corporation of Haifa
General Administration
P.O.B.1.

20/3/32.
1st June, 1948.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 31.5.1948, on the subject of obstacles being placed in the way of U.N. British subjects.

I am discussing the above matter with the Authorities concerned.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) ?
CHAIRMAN
Municipal Commission.

Mr. C. Marriott,
H.B.M. Consul General,
British Consulate General,
Haifa.
GF.

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25 2.

E

E 8670

86A

1948

PALESTINE

28 JUN 1948

Registry Number } E8670/1260/31

FROM HAIFA
(Mr Marriott).
No. 20 (23/3/1)

Dated -----

Received in Registry } 28 Jun 48

Insert Copy of letter to the Mayor of Haifa protesting about the occupation of the Windsor Hotel Annex, which is leased to Consolidated Refineries Ltd, a British Company, by a number of Jewish refugees from the Jordan Valley, and the reply reporting the hotel evacuated and inconvenience regretted.

Last. Paper
E. 8669.
~~K4103.~~

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

P.M. 10/6

[Handwritten signature]
14/2/48

Next Paper

E 8671

~~K4103~~

(Minutes.)

[Handwritten signature]

19/6

a.c.P. 21/6
Mr. Russell. ✓ L.T. 23:vi.
Eastern Dept

L72:vi

[Handwritten mark]

34925

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E 8670

23/3/1.

28 JUN 1948

No.20.

His Britannic Majesty's Consul General at Haifa presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit the accompanying documents -

Reference to previous correspondence -

No. and Date.	Subject.
1. Copy of letter of 18th May, 1948, to the Mayor of Haifa.	Jewish Refugees lodged at the Windsor Annex, Haifa.
2. Copy of Reply of 19th May, 1948.	<i>Am.</i>

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British Consulate General,
Haifa.

18th May, 1948.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Windsor Hôtel Annexe, which is leased to a British company, Consolidated Refineries Limited, has been invaded by a Jewish Organisation which has lodged there a number of Jewish refugees believed to be from the Jordan valley. It has been reported to me that Mr. James Pollock assented to the occupation of this hôtel. I have Mr. Pollock's categoric assurance that this is not so.

2. However much I may sympathize with and deplore the plight of the refugees, I cannot but protest in the strongest possible terms against this invasion of what is temporarily British property and actually occupied and needed by British subjects.

3. It is my duty to request you to take steps to see that the Windsor Hôtel Annexe is restored to its rightful occupiers, Consolidated Refineries Limited, at the earliest possible moment- and I suggest by noon tomorrow, Wednesday, 19th May. It is further my duty to request you to see that I, as His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, be informed in good time when it is proposed to take over property occupied by British subjects for any purpose.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
The Mayor of Haifa. Your obedient Servant,
(sgd.) C. Marriott.

His Worship,

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Copy.

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Municipal Corporation of Haifa
General Administration
P.O.B.1.

19th May, 1948.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 18.5.1948, on the subject of Jewish Refugees lodged at the Windsor Hotel Annex and have to inform you that the above hotel has already been evacuated.

In this connection I wish to add that it was explained to me that since the Jordan Valley has suddenly turned into a severe battle field, all children had to be immediately evacuated and temporarily lodged in Haifa; some of the hotels served the purpose.

The unintentional inconvenience is regretted.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) ?

CHAIRMAN

MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER

Mr. C. Marriott,
British Consulate General,
Haifa.

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26 7

E

E 8671

28 JUN 1948

90

1948

Registry Number } E8671/1260/31

FROM HAIFA
(Mr Marriott)

No. 21 (22/3/8)

Dated -----

Received in Registry } 28 Jun 48

Copy of a letter to the Mayor of Tel Aviv, requesting that steps be taken to protect the property of Barclay's Bank which is situated within his Municipality, and copy of the reply, confirming that the building is being watched.

Last Paper

E 8670

11/29/48

References

(Minutes.)

Mr Marriott

a. a. Ruddle
21/6

Eastern Dept 14 23/4

lf. 2: vii

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

1/2/48
14/2/48

Next Paper

E 8751

34925

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E 8571
 22/3/8. 28 JUN 1948

91

[Faint handwritten notes and lines]

No.21.

His Britannic Majesty's Consul General at Haifa presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit the accompanying documents -

Reference to previous correspondence -

No. and Date.	Subject.
1. Copy of letter of 18th May, 1948, to the Mayor of Tel Aviv.	Protection of properties belonging to Nationals of the United Kingdom - Barclays Bank, Tel Aviv.
2. Copy of Reply of 26th May, 1948.	
3. Copy of letter of 9th June, 1948, to the Mayor of Tel Aviv.	

[Handwritten signature]

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92

British Consulate General,
Haifa.
10th May, 1948.

Sir,

It has been reported to me that the under-mentioned British property is situated within your Municipality :-

Barclays Bank (Dominions, Colonies & Overseas)
Allenby Road,
Tel Aviv

I have the honour accordingly to request that you will, as is done in all civilised countries, take steps as may be necessary for the protection of this property belonging to Nationals of a friendly state.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

C.Marriott.

His worship,
The Mayor of
Tel Aviv.

GF.

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93

Municipal Cooperation Tel aviv.

12571.

26.5.1948.

C.Marriott, Esq.,
British Consul General,
Haifa.

Sir,

Subject:- Watch and Ward - Barclays Bank
Building Tel Aviv.

Yours of the 18th May, 1948.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter under reference and to inform you that the building in question is still being watched by the Jewish Security Forces in accordance with the arrangements made between them and the Management of the Barclays Bank Tel Aviv.

I have no knowledge of any intention of this watch being removed in the near future.

I fail to understand your reference to our duty to do what "is done in all civilized countries" and beg to ask you to refrain from such insinuations

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) J.Rokach
MAYOR.

GF.

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E

E 8751

95

1948

PALESTINE

29 JUN 1948

Registry Number | E8751/1260/31

TELEGRAM FROM
British Middle East
Office, CAIRO

No. 213
TOP SECRET
Dated 26.6.48
Received 29.6.48
in Registry

Commanders-in-Chief Middle East consideration of plans for protection of British nationals in Palestine after withdrawal of forces from Haifa.
Addressed to Haifa telegram No. 6. - Repeated to Foreign Office and Jerusalem.

Understood that there are remaining in Palestine about 50 British officials in each of Haifa and Jerusalem, and of these that the majority enjoy diplomatic immunity. Gives numbers of non-officials understood to be in Palestine. Summarises proposals from Commanders-in-Chief for protection of British nationals. Requests Foreign Office recommendations on possible co-ordination of plans for protection and evacuation of British and American nationals.

Last Paper.

E8671

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Palestine Dist. June.
4/10 (E 7702)

(Action completed.)

(Index)

Next Paper.

8745

(Minutes.)

Laure Mitchell. 29.vi.

Mr Beelen recently went to a meeting on this subject

For this meeting, see E 9029

JCS Beirut
June 30

The meeting decided that no action was required of the Navy or Air Force at present. I think we can await Haifa's reply to the telegram within.

H. Beelen 30/6

G. L. Pyman
1/7

M. U. S.

2.7.

See within.

him/Def. Tel. to GHO. MELF. COS(ME) 257 of 30/6.

GHO reply tel to him/Def 246/CCL of 23/6

See also E 9029

J. Balfour 31/7

47. 7. vii

32003 F.O.P.

B. U. on 15th July

A. B. 8/7

X P. 26/7

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Cypher/OTP

E 8751

DIPLOMATIC SECRET DISTRIBUTION

FROM BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL EAST OFFICE CAIRO

TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

No. 213.
June 26th, 1948.

D: 8.25.p.m. June 26th, 1948.

R: 10.15.p.m. June 26th, 1948.

TOP SECRET.

Addressed to Haifa telegram No. 6. Repeated to Foreign Office and Jerusalem.

Commanders-in-Chief Middle East have been considering plans for protection of British nationals in Palestine after withdrawal of forces from Haifa.

2. We understand British officials remaining in Palestine comprise about fifty in each of Haifa and Jerusalem. It is understood the majority of these are on your staff and hence enjoy diplomatic immunity.

3. The numbers of non-officials remaining are understood to be (a) British proper including dominions 150, (b) British Arab 600, (c) British Jews 3,000.

4. Commanders-in-Chief consider it quite impossible to re-introduce forces into Palestine to protect in situ nationals referred to in paragraph 3. The most that could be done might be to evacuate by sea as many as could be collected by you at or near Haifa. It might be necessary for this operation to be covered by a small landing party and air cover.

5. The possibility of a situation arising in which British nationals would require protection has been reported to the Chiefs of Staff, but any action which may be taken would depend on the numbers of nationals who would in fact merit legal protection. It would be helpful if you could confirm that the numbers given in paragraph 3 of the above are correct and that they are all entitled to protection by His Majesty's Government. Locations of these nationals are also required.

6. Regarding your own staffs it is presumed that you have made arrangements for their protection and if necessary their evacuation if a serious situation arises. Can you say what plans are in existence to meet such an eventuality?

7. We understand equivalent American nationals under A, B and C of paragraph 3 are 200, 500 and 6,000 respectively. No information is available here regarding plans which may have been made for their protection in similar circumstances. Can you send any details? It may be that plans for protection and evacuation of both British and American nationals could be co-ordinated and we would like your recommendations on this point.

Foreign Office pass to Haifa as my telegram No. 6.
[Repeated to Haifa]. [Copy sent to M. E. Secretariat].

—oOo—

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29 JUN 1948

Head of Eastern

SECRET CYPHER TELEGRAM

pw. 97
8757

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8751 1260 31

CZ 1521
TOO 301800Z
TOD 302050Z

From : Ministry of Defence, London.
To : G.H.Q., Middle East Land Forces.
Rptd : C-in-C., Mediterranean.
C-in-C., East Indies.

INDEXED

COS (ME) 257

30th June 1948.

We have consulted Foreign Office and Colonial Office about your telegram No. 246/CCD referring to protection of British nationals in Palestine and we confirm the assumption in your paragraph 2.

2. British Arabs and Jews in your paragraph 3(b) and (c) are considered to be permanent residents in Palestine, except that (c) may include a few British subjects who are working in Palestine and who happen to be Jews. The need for their evacuation is unlikely to arise. In any case they have had ample warning of our departure so that we can hardly be held responsible for them in future.

3. We agree with course of action in your paragraph 5 and note that you are keeping whole question under observation.

TOO 301800Z

CIRCULATION

- D.C.O.R.
- Foreign Office
- First Sea Lord
- Message Control, War Office
- Registry Telegrams, Air Ministry
- Chief of Combined Ops. Staff
- Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations
- Secretary of State for Colonies
- P/S to Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

We have this ref. somewhere.
(d. the answer is attached to it?)

[Signature]

203

[Handwritten notes and signatures]
1/ Copy sent to M/Def
also you will find statement of F. R. ...

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SECRET CYPHER TELEGRAM

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E 879 / 1260 / 31

IZ 1585
 TOC 231315B
 (231113Z)
 TOR 241610Z

From: G.H.Q. M.E.L.F.
 To: Ministry of Defence, London.
 Rptd: C. in C. Mediterranean.

246/CCL

23rd June 1948.

From Commanders-in-Chief for Chiefs of Staff.

1. You will realise that on our withdrawal from Palestine and particularly while the Jewish State remains unrecognised by H.M. Government we may be faced with the awkward possibility of having to protect and evacuate British personnel remaining in Palestine. The scope of the problem as we know it at present is given in the following paragraphs.

2. British officials remaining in Palestine comprise about 50 in each Haifa and Jerusalem. The majority of these are on the staff of H.M.G.'s representatives at these places where they are guarded by British ex Palestine Policemen. Since we assume they would enjoy diplomatic immunity, we do not consider they should be included in any evacuation plans.

3. The numbers of non-officials remaining will be approximately as follows.

- (a) British proper including Dominions 150.
- (b) British Arab 600.
- (c) British Jew 3,000.

Should conditions stabilise in Palestine the above numbers may be increased by the reason(?) of some of these who leave before the withdrawal.

4. We are endeavouring to obtain more detailed information regarding location of these nationals and how many under (b) and (c) above would in fact merit physical protection but are doubtful if we will get any very helpful answer.

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29

E

E 8995 99

5 JUL 1948

1948

Registry Number E8995/1260/31

TELEGRAM FROM Mr. Marriott, HAIFA.

No. 172 TOP SECRET.

Dated 4.7.48

Received in Registry 5.7.48

Protection of British Nationals in Palestine after withdrawal of forces from Haifa.

Refers BMEQ telegram No. 213 of 26th. June (rptd. to Haifa No. 189 - E8751/1260/31).

There is no question of diplomatic immunity as far as Haifa is concerned, but the only protection anticipated will be required against the irresponsible Jewish elements. Transport is available to convey Consulate staff and European British left in Haifa to a point of embarkation.

Repeated to BMEQ, Cairo, and Jerusalem.

Last Paper.

E 8845

(Minutes.)

See Nav E 8997.

Lt. 6: vii

References.

Tel. sent to Haifa

H3 7/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/12/48 Dist.

July 6.

8(3c) R.C. Mitchell. M.F.P. for Haifa.

6 July

copy to Middle East. Prod Dept

13 July

Lt. Haifa 26/7 July 7.

S. P. King Dist July 13.

(Action completed.)

(Index)

Pld 19/7

18/7

Next Paper

E 8996

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Cypher/OTP

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET) DISTRIBUTION

FROM HAIFA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Marriott.
No. 172.

D. 11.15 a.m. 4th July, 1948.

4th July, 1948.

R. 12.36 p.m. 4th July 1948

Repeated to B.M.E.O. Cairo and Jerusalem.

IMMEDIATE.
TOP SECRET.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 172 of 4th July, repeated to B.M.E.O. Cairo and Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 189.

2. There is of course no question of diplomatic immunity so far as Haifa is concerned. My staff and I are at present enjoying what privileges I am entitled to expect. I do not (repeat not) anticipate that protection will be required against constituted authorities. The risk we run is from irresponsible elements like I.Z.L. and the Stern Gang or as a result of our own conduct. This risk is constant and known to all. The overthrow of the present "Government" by I.Z.L. would increase it but I do not (repeat not) believe even then a concerted attack would be made on us. We should probably be required to leave at short notice and I should presumably be given a chance to ask for the means to do so.

3. Numbers given for British are as near as I can estimate.

4. I have the transport, if I can use it, necessary to convey my own staff and the few European British left in Haifa, with whom I am in touch, to a point of embarkation but I have no means of communication with the British in e.g. Tel Aviv, Nazareth, Tiberias except by post. The British Arabs and Jews are for the most part unknown to me and it is not known how many of the former have left the country.

5. My United States colleague thinks the figures for the American nationals roughly correct except for Jews whom he put at 3,500. He is trying to work out a plan and agrees generally with my estimate of the risk. The need for evacuation would arise so suddenly that I do not see how a landing party and air cover could arrive in time. I think evacuation could only be effected with the co-operation of local authorities which would not be forthcoming if there were a landing party.

Foreign Office please pass to B.M.E.O. and Jerusalem as my telegrams 8 and 31 respectively.

[Repeated to B.M.E.O. and Jerusalem].

C:O

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Registry
No.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
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Open.

MB.

Draft.

HAIFA

Telegram.

No. 264

(Date) July 7th

Repeat to:—

JERUSALEM 339

E.M.E.O. 737

WASHINGTON 7409

H. Bealey 7/7

Enc. Clerk. M. L. Wright
Index 17.
Cypher.

Distribution:—

DIPLOMATIC SECRET

Copies to:—

7 5 JUL 1948

101
CYPHER

July 1948.

Despatched 7:20 a.m.

IMMEDIATE

TOP SECRET

Addressed to Haifa telegram No. 264
of 7th July repeated ^{in a separate} to Jerusalem, B.M.E.O.
and Washington.

Your telegram No. 172 [of 4th July]

Your present position and that of your
staff is very much in ^{my} ~~our~~ thoughts. If it
becomes more critical, ^{you should inform me} ~~I hope you will continue~~
^{immediately} ~~to consult me as long as this is possible, but~~
~~in the last resort you have full discretion to~~
~~take whatever action you consider necessary in~~
~~for the safety of your staff and yourself.~~ ~~the interests of your staff.~~ This authority
covers evacuation from the country if you
consider this to be necessary and means ~~can be~~
~~found, as available.~~

2. Meanwhile I should like you to
consider whether it is possible for you to
reduce your liabilities by sending some of your
staff out of the country without thereby
destroying the value of the Consulate-General
as a whole.

3. If you are placed in a dangerous
situation while representatives of the Mediator
are still in Haifa, you should appeal to them
for protection. It occurs to me however that
your American colleague might be able to offer
more tangible ^{assistance or} protection in an extreme

/emergency

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(13556) Wt. 4897-140 100m 3147 G.S.St. Cp 620

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emergency^{2.3} by giving sanctuary to you and your staff in the U.S. Consulate. Unless you see objection, you should immediately put this possibility to him.

4. Please keep me informed of the measures you take.

mrb

77.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Cypher/OTP.

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET) DISTRIBUTION.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO HAIFA.

No. 264.

7th July 1948.

D. 7.20 a.m. 8th July 1948.

Repeated to: Jerusalem No. 339;
B.M.E.O. (Cairo) No. 737;
Washington No. 7409.

IMMEDIATE.

TOP SECRET.

Addressed to Haifa telegram No. 264 of 7th July, repeated for information to Jerusalem, B.M.E.O. (Cairo) and Washington.

Your telegram No. 172 [of 4th July].

Your present position and that of your staff is very much in my thoughts. If it becomes more critical, you should inform me immediately.

2. Meanwhile I should like you to consider whether it is possible for you to reduce your liabilities by sending some of your staff out of the country without thereby destroying the value of the Consulate-General as a whole.

3. If you are placed in a dangerous situation while representatives of the Mediator are still in Haifa, you should appeal to them for protection. It occurs to me however that your American colleague might be able to offer more tangible assistance or protection in an extreme emergency e.g. by giving sanctuary to you and your staff in the United States Consulate. Unless you see objection, you should immediately put this possibility to him.

4. Please keep me informed of the measures you take.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat.]

W:W:W:W:W

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E

E 8396

103

1948

5 JUL 1948

Registry Number E8996/1260/31.

TELEGRAM FROM Mr. Marriott, HAIFA.

No. 173 Secret.

Dated 4.7.48

Received in Registry 5.7.48

Protection of British Nationals in Palestine: presence of British supervisors in oil refineries at Haifa.

Refers Foreign Office telegram No.223 to Haifa and Haifa telegram No.172 to Foreign Office (E8995/1260/31).

Outlines the risks run by British personnel in Haifa at the present time. The presence of British supervisors would not be deprecated providing they are aware of the risks they run in being sent to Haifa. Presumes that whatever arrangements are made, they will be given widest publicity for the benefit of the Jews and Arabs. Repeated to Bagdad, Washington, and Jerusalem, and Saving to Paris.

Last Paper.

E 8995

References.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8) *Albion Note*
15/5/48
8) *2-2-48*
15/5/48
15/5/48

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

15/5/48 *15/5/48*

Next Paper.

E 8997

(Minutes)

The background of the telegram within is to be found in our telegram No.223 (Flag A behind this paper). The Company are prepared to approach the Jewish authorities and the Mediator, with a proposal for resuming the flow of crude oil from Iraq through Haifa to Europe as soon as they are assured that we would not object to the presence of a very small number of British supervisors in Haifa.

On the evidence provided in Mr. Marriott's telegram I should say that, in view of the urgent need of France and other west European countries for Iraqi petroleum, we should tell the Company that we would not object to the return of these supervisors if the truce is prolonged or if special arrangements can be made for the demilitarisation of Haifa. The Company are aware of the risks their personnel would run, but they are under strong pressure from their French component and they naturally wish to resume work.

M. Le Roy of the French Embassy visited me again this afternoon to discuss Haifa. He assured me that the French Government would be willing to support the Company in their approach to the Jewish authorities. He again urged that we should take full account of the dependence of France on these oil supplies and that we should act with as little delay as possible.

I have promised the Company to try and get an answer for them tomorrow morning (Thursday).

H. Bealey
7th July, 1948.

M. L.

77.

Company informed.

H. B. 87

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E 8090

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM HAIFA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Marriot, D. 3.57 p.m. 4th July, 1948.
No.173
4th July, 1948. R. 6.58 p.m. 4th July, 1948.

IMMEDIATE SECRET

Your telegram No.223. Please see my telegram No.172.

Some of the precautions I have taken may give clearest idea of the risks we run which can only be increased by adding to the number of British here.

2. I returned weapons and refused the armoured cars offered by G.O.C. because as I have told my party we have only to kill one Jew to be wiped out. My watchmen have kept their revolvers but they leave them in their bedrooms very pistols only being carried in perimetre. None of us is armed when we leave the perimetre. I am the only one who leave the perimetre alone. No-one except me is allowed out in one of my vehicles after dark when I do my driving unaccompanied. This is to avoid an incident at one of the road blocks guarded by armed Jews - much more likely to occur in the dark and when men are tired.

3. Arrival of Herridge in Haifa could not be concealed. I should not (repeat not) deprecate his visit during holding of the truce as there are so few Arabs left that the risk of sabotage by them is negligible. If he arrives after expiry of the truce I presume agreement of Arabs to arrangements would have been obtained before that of the Jews was sought and I wonder how much reliance the Arabs will place on a Jewish undertaking.

4. Provided any British sent here by I.P.C. are aware of the risks they run and that the more there are the greater the risk to all I should not (repeat not) deprecate the presence here of British supervisors having regard to European need for this oil. The immediate result would be that all British business men who [gp.undec.] will think it reasonable for them to return and I think it only fair to those of us who have to be [? gp.omitted] that they should not by their numbers add to our risk.

5. I presume that if arrangements are made they will be given the widest publicity so that the Jews and Arabs all are aware of them.

Foreign Office please repeat to Bagdad, Washington and Jerusalem as my telegrams Nos. 12, 1 and 32 respectively and Saving No.1 to Paris.

[Repeated to Bagdad, Washington, Jerusalem and Saving to Paris.]

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

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E

E 8397

105

5 JUL 1948

1948

Registry Number E8997/1260/31

TELEGRAM FROM Sir H. Dow, JERUSALEM. No. 222

TOP SECRET.

Dated 1.7.48

Received in Registry 5.7.48

Protection of British Nationals in Jerusalem Consular district.

Refers BMEQ telegram No. 213 of 26th. June (rptd. to Haifa No. 6. - E8751/1260/31). There are no British officials in Jerusalem not on the Consular staff, which numbers about 65. Gives estimated numbers of non-officials resident in the Consular district. Summarises plans for protection and/or evacuation of British nationals in case of emergency. Repeated to Haifa.

Last Paper.

E 8996

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 Palestine Dist. July 6. Tel. Jerusalem. 361 Rptd. 27.2.48 July 8. 8. Palestine Dist July 13.

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

1/19/48 1/19/48

Next Paper.

E 8997

(Minutes.)

This & Mr Maniott's tel No 172. (E8995 attached) are the answers to a questionnaire by the Middle East C in C about the protection of British Nationals in Palestine. All these British Nationals have been given clear warning of our intention to leave Palestine, & their blood, if any, is on their own heads if anything happens; on the other hand our Consul General must obviously do their best to look after them. I agree with Mr. Maniott that evacuation of his flock can only take place by sea & with the consent of the local Jewish authorities - use of a landing party wd: only precipitate hostilities. Sir H. Dow has already offered evacuation via Amman. He cannot do more. The chief difficulty will arise with these United Kingdom Jews of military age in Palestine, whom the Israelis threaten to claim as their own. I do not know whether this problem has been considered yet. American Jews will be in a similar situation, but it is doubtful whether the Jewish authorities care much them. Neither Sir H. Dow nor Mr Maniott have any illusions about their own /safety

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safety. Unfortunately there is little we can do
for them - and both seem to agree that
they must rely on the goodwill of their local
authorities. I imagine that any attempt at
evacuation by air, should this prove necessary, wd:
be impossible.

James Keith 11.6.44

Consular Dept:

If an emergency does arise owing to failure to
prolong the truce, it will arise on the early morning
of July 9th, next Friday. Comparing Mr. Harcourt's and
Sir H. Dow's telegrams, it is clear that the greater danger
is likely to be in Jerusalem. Sir H. Dow clearly states
that Jewish occupation of the area in which the Consulate
General stands is "not unlikely"; that in that case
he would immediately ask for Hagana's protection against
the Stern gang and Legion; that if it is not given or
is not effective, "we should not, I fear, survive very
long". In any case, if the truce is not prolonged "the
situation for all the staff will immediately become
serious and may be irreparable".

J. Balfour
1/7

Draft to Jerusalem

H. B. Bealey 7/7

Int. Sec.

H. B. 9/7

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DIPLOMATIC SECRET DISTRIBUTION

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E. 8397

Sir H. Dow
No. 222.

D: 2.49.p.m. July 1st, 1948
R: 4.21.p.m. July 5th, 1948

July 1st, 1948.

TOP SECRET.

Addressed to British Middle East Office Cairo telegram 16 of July 1st, repeated to Foreign Office and Haifa.

Your telegram No. 6 to Haifa. E 8397/222

Your paragraph 2. There are no British officials in Jerusalem who are not on my staff. My staff numbers about 65 British subjects of United Kingdom or Dominion origin.

2. Your paragraph 3. Accurate estimates are not available for the former administrative districts of Jerusalem Gaza and Samaria which for practical purposes compose my Consular district. Estimated numbers for those three areas are as follows:

- (a) about 42 excluding my staff.
- (b) ? 200,
- (c) 1,500 (this figure was compiled in 1941 and is still probably near correct).

3. Your paragraph 4. Some British Jews have expressed a desire to return to the United Kingdom and have already gone to Haifa where they propose to get in touch with His Majesty's Consul General for advice. In this connection it should be pointed out that a spokesman of Jewish Agency here has said, irrespective of national passports they hold, any Jew at present in Palestine will be considered by Jewish authorities as a national of state of Israel and may therefore not be allowed to leave if of military age. United Kingdom British in Jewish area (i.e. non-Jews) would probably be able to leave for Haifa during the truce. It is unlikely that Arab-British or United Kingdom-British on Arab side of the line would be able to evacuate to anywhere save Amman. None of the United Kingdom British here with the exception of one indigent family have expressed a desire to evacuate.

4. Your paragraph 5. Location of United Kingdom-British is: Jewish quarter of Jerusalem 15, Arab quarter of Jerusalem about 90 including my staff (Cathedral 15, Old City 10) Nablus 3, Gaza 2, Bethlehem 4.

5. Your paragraph 6. Plans for protection of this Consulate are based on a 24-hour watch system at points designated by British military authorities. Guards consisting of 50 British volunteers from Palestine police whom resignations have now reduced to 44. They are armed with automatic weapons and two Piat guns. An emergency defence scheme exists but it would be obviously inadequate to deal with a concerted attack of any strength. It seems to me

that the only/

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Jerusalem telegram to Foreign Office No. 222.

- 2 -

that the only factor to be relied upon for external defence of our perimeter is a request for official protection from de facto authority in this area. Thus if Arab population attempted to attack us (e.g. as a result of British recognition of Jewish State) I should request protection from the Arab Legion, supposing they were still here. If, as seems not unlikely, Jews occupy this area at the end of the truce (or by a surprise attack before official end of the truce) I would immediately request Jewish Agency and local Haganah Commander for protection against the Stern group and I.Z.L. Agency have already held forth Stern group as a "bogey" to members of my staff who have wished to circulate in Jewish area of Jerusalem and would I think find it difficult to refuse some sort of protection. I do not suppose we could rely entirely on this protection but I draw some encouragement from the thought that the Jews would undoubtedly like recognition for their State from His Majesty's Government and therefore should be keen to show that they could protect a British Mission. If protection were not accorded or were not effective we should not I fear survive very long. Everything depends on whether present truce in Jerusalem is prolonged or not. If it is not prolonged, the situation for all the staff will immediately become serious and may be irremediable.

6. Evacuation can be undertaken to Amman so long as the Arabs occupy our area. If the Jews encroach on this area, evacuation would be difficult and would have to be on Haifa unless we could make other arrangement through the Red Cross.

7. United States Consulate have advised all United States citizens to leave Palestine and are attempting to compile a register of those remaining. They reckon at present that citizens in all Palestine are category (a) about 80 (b) 500 and (c) 3,500 to 4000. In existing circumstances it would be difficult to co-ordinate evacuation of category (a) British subjects and United States citizens in Jerusalem since most British subjects are on Arab side of the line and most Americans on Jewish. It requires special permission from Arabs and Jews to cross the lines even during the truce and this is not readily accorded to anyone save officials. United States citizens from Jewish Jerusalem could probably be best evacuated to Tel Aviv or Haifa unless roads either at Bab al Wad or between Tul Karen and Nathaniyl are under Arab control. In that event they would probably have to make arrangements with the Red Cross to evacuate to Arab side of the city and thence to Amman. It is quite

/likely that it

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Jerusalem telegram to Foreign Office No. 282.

- 5 -

likely that it will be impossible for either ourselves
or the Americans to evacuate from Jerusalem.

Foreign Office please pass to Haifa as
my telegram No.18.

[Repeated to Haifa.]

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat.]

W:W:W:W:W

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Reference:-
FO 371/68654

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Registry No. E 8997/1260/31

Top Secret.
~~Secret~~
~~Confidential~~
~~Restricted~~
~~Open~~

HB

Draft.

Telegram to:

JERUSALEM

No. 361

(Date) July 8th

Repeat to:--

Haifa 282

B.M.E.O. 745

~~For Class~~

~~Code~~

Cypher.

Distribution:--

Diplomatic Secret

Copy to

Haifa and
B. M. E. O.

RECEIVED

JUL 1948

84615 W. 34322152 30.000 12/47 A.S.E.W.L.G. Cp.685

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

CYPHER
Date 9/11
F.O. 109
Despatched 2.30 a.m.
Despatched M.
IMMEDIATE TOP SECRET

[Security classification] Top Secret
-if any

Addressed to JERUSALEM

telegram No. 361 78th July Haifa

repeated for information to

[Copy to] Haifa and B.M.E.O.

Your telegram No. 222 [of 1st July].
Please see my telegram no. 264 to Haifa
I assume that your situation will be

rather less difficult so long as the area is controlled by the Arabs. On the other hand if it should be over-run by the Jews, it seems probable that you would find the I.Z.L. relatively more powerful than they are in Haifa.

2. You should put into effect the measures suggested in my telegram under reference to Haifa so far as they are applicable in Jerusalem. It seems possible that Jewish conquest of your district, while increasing the risk that you would need American assistance, would also make it easier for you to maintain contact with your U.S. colleague.

3. Please inform me at once of any change in the situation which in your view increases the danger ^{to} your staff and yourself.

MT/2
8.7

[Tel. to Haifa
of 7th July
on safety of
Consul General
and staff]

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Cypher/OTF

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET) DISTRIBUTION

E 8997/1260/31
Top Secret.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO JERUSALEM

No. 361

8th July, 1948.

D. 2.05 a.m. 9th July, 1948.

Repeated to Haifa No. 282.
B.M.S.O. No. 745.

IMMEDIATE
TOP SECRET

Addressed to Jerusalem telegram No. 361 of 8th July,
repeated for information to Haifa and B.M.S.O.

Your telegram No. 222 [of 1st July].

Please see my telegram No. 264 to Haifa.

I assume that your situation will be rather less difficult so long as the area is controlled by the Arabs. On the other hand if it should be over-run by the Jews, it seems probable that you would find the I.Z.L. relatively more powerful than they are in Haifa.

2. You should put into effect the measures suggested in my telegram under reference to Haifa so far as they are applicable in Jerusalem. It seems possible that Jewish conquest of your district, if that should take place, while increasing the risk that you would need American assistance, would also make it easier for you to maintain contact with your United States colleague.

3. Please inform me at once of any change in the situation which in your view increases the danger to your staff and yourself.

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E

112

E 9115

7 JUL 1948

1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number E9115/1260/31.

TELEGRAM FROM Sir H. Dow, JERUSALEM.

No. 238

Dated 7.7.48

Received in Registry 7.7.48

Arrest of British Subjects resident at Jerusalem.

Five British subjects resident at Jerusalem were arrested on the night 6th./7th. July by Jews. Belgian Consul-General, as chairman of Truce Commission, investigated and protested to the Jewish Agency. Dr. Joseph of the Jewish Agency has promised to try to get the men released.

Repeated to Haifa and Cairo.

Last Paper.

E. 7024

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Palestine Dist

(U/E 112) 7 July

Tel. New York (UK del).

No 2917 7 July

Offic. Rhodes 32, Cairo 1161,

Jerusalem 337, Haifa 263,

W. Can. 7394.]

8/ Palestine Dist.

(U/E 8832)

July 8

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

15/7

14/7/48

Next Paper.

E9132

(Minutes.)

James Phinckell. 7: vii

Mr. Wash of News Dept tells me that the names appeared in a few copies of the Ev. Standard before the editor (at his request) had them cut out; that this enabled their identification by Jews in London, with the result that the News Chronicle will have full details in its issue of 8/

J. Balfour 7/1

Tel. sent to New York

H.B. 7/1

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En Clair

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

113
E 9715

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE JUL 1948

His Majesty's Consul-General.

No. 238.

D: 7.09 a.m. 7th July, 1948.

7th July, 1948.

R: 9.14 a.m. 7th July, 1948.

Repeated to: Haifa,
Cairo.

IMMEDIATE

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 238 of July 7th repeated to Haifa and Cairo for information of Sir H. Dow.

United States Consulate informed me this morning that during the night five British subjects resident at Jerusalem Electric Corporation Plant were arrested by I.G.L.

2. Belgian Consul-General as chairman of Truce Commission whose flag [grp.corrupt] on building, went immediately to investigate and tried to get in touch with me but our telephone was "out of order". He protested to the Jewish Agency who promised to take the matter up forthwith.

3. This morning I telephoned Dr. Bernard Joseph of the Jewish Agency who stated that he sincerely deplored this action and has promised to do his utmost to get men released.

4. Names are Bryant, Sylvester, Downs, Hawkins and Leach.

5. I will keep you informed.

000

JUL 1948
HAIFA

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Open.

HB

CYPHER (Data) ¹¹⁴
Despatched 11

**MOST IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL**

Draft.

Telegram to: UKDEL NEW YORK

No. 2917

(Date) July 4th

Repeats MOST IMMEDIATE

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

XXX RHODES 22
XXX CAIRO 1161
XXX JERUSALEM 337
XXX HAIFA 263
and immediate to
XXX WASHINGTON 7394

H. Beely 7/7

~~Ex-Clas~~

~~Code~~

Cypher.

~~Distribution~~

Political

3 JUL 1948

[Security classification] Confidential
—if any

Addressed to UKDEL NEW YORK

telegram No. 2917 (date) of 7th July

repeated for information to RHODES, CAIRO, JERUSALEM,
HAIFA AND WASHINGTON.

Please convey to the Security Council
the information contained in Jerusalem telegram
No. 238, repeated to you as my immediately
following telegram. You should not (repeat not)
~~repeat~~ ^{mention} the names of the five British subjects, ^{until}
^{we have fuller particulars of their identity.}
I leave it to your discretion whether or not you
should mention the part played by the U.S.

Consulate.

2. H.M. Representatives in Rhodes and Cairo
should inform the Mediator or his representative.

3. ~~Can you find a list of Jerusalem~~
can now supply the initials of the five men
and some description of their occupations,
they should telegraph this information ^(repeating it) to

UK Delegation New York, as well as to

[Approved by Sir H.B. 7/7
G. Kirkpatrick]

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W1-34382/152 20.000 12.47 A.S. E.W.Ltd. Cp.685

520

Cypher/CTP
Confidential.

115
POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK.

(To U.K. Delegation to United Nations).

No. 2917.

7th July, 1948. D. 6.5 p.m. 7th July, 1948.

Repeated Most Immediate to Rhodes No. 52, Cairo No. 1161,
Jerusalem No. 337, Haifa No. 263 and Immediate to
Washington No. 7394.

MOST IMMEDIATE.
CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to U.K. Delegation New York telegram
No. 2917 of 7th July, repeated for information to Rhodes,
Cairo, Jerusalem, Haifa and Washington.

Please convey to the Security Council the information
contained in Jerusalem telegram No. 238 repeated to you as
my immediately following telegram. You should not (repeat
not) mention the names of the five British subjects, until
we have fuller particulars of their identity. I leave it
to your discretion whether or not you should mention the
part played by the United States Consulate.

2. His Majesty's Representatives in Rhodes and
Cairo should inform the mediator or his representative.

3. If Jerusalem can now supply the initials of
the five men and some description of their occupations,
they should telegraph this information repeating it to
United Kingdom Delegation New York.

C:C

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FO
371 / 68654

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204

E

E 9132 / 116

2 JUL 1948

1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number E9132/1260/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

Mr. Marriott, HAIFA.

No. 192

TOP SECRET.

Dated 7.7.48

Received in Registry } 7.7.48

Protection of French Nationals in the Haifa area after withdrawal of British forces.

Refers Foreign Office telegram No. 189 (Repeats BMO telegram No. 213 of 26th. June - E8751/1260/31).

Gives numbers of French nationals in the Haifa area. French Consul in Haifa has made no plan for their protection, but agrees with the last two sentences of Haifa telegram No. 172 of 4th. July (E8995/1260/31).

Repeated to BMO, Cairo, and Jerusalem.

Last Paper.

E 9115

(Minutes.)

Lt. 8.vii

W. 1/11/48

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Palestine Diary
(-10 E9120) July 8

(Action completed.)

7/17

(Index completed.)

14/7/48

Next Paper.

E 9165

10.58 4 30 E 911

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E 9132

117

7 JUL 1948

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Cypher/OTP

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET) DISTRIBUTION

FROM HAIFA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Marriott
No. 192

D. 12.17 p.m. 7th July, 1948.

7th July, 1948.

R. 1. 5 p.m. 7th July, 1948.

Repeated to British Middle East Office Cairo.
Jerusalem

IMMEDIATE

TOP SECRET

depts F, S, M, B

Your telegram No. 189. *E 875/120/1*

My French colleague informs me that he has about 100 French, 1500 French Arabs, 2,500 French Jews in Haifa neighbourhood. He has not (repeat not) made a plan and agrees with the last two sentences of my telegram No. 172. - *E 8995/1260/31*

Foreign Office please repeat to British Middle East Office Cairo and Jerusalem as my telegrams. Nos. 9 and 57 respectively.

[Repeated to British Middle East Office Cairo and Jerusalem].

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

EEEE

JUL 1948
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GENERAL
FOREIGN OFFICE
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E

E 9165/118

1948

PALESTINE

3 JUL 1948

Registry Number E9165/1260/31

TELEGRAM FROM JERUSALEM (Sir H Dow).
No. 241

Dated 8 Jul 48

Received in Registry 8 Jul 48

Further particulars of 5 British Subjects arrested in Jerusalem. 31)

Refers to FO telegram 2917 to New York (E9115/1260/X)

Gives names and appointments of the 5 British subjects. All were employees of "Jerusalem Electric and Public Services Corporation Ltd, incorporated in the United Kingdom.

Mr Sheringham is going to Jewish Area this morning to make personal contact with Belgian Consul General and Jewish Agency, and if possible visit the electricity plant.

Last Paper.

E 932

(Minutes.)

kanthukill 8:vii

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Palestine doc July 8.

Th. V. East (K Dept)

Th. Cox (Treaty)

July 14

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

CS 26/8

16/2/48

Next Paper.

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Cypher/OTP

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir H. Dow
No. 241

D. 6.44 a.m. 8th July 1948
R. 7.55 a.m. 8th July 1948

8th July 1948.

Repeated to U.K. Delegation New York

Cairo
Rhodes
Haifa
Washington.

E 9165

3 JUL 1948

MOST IMMEDIATE.

RESTRICTED.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 241 of July 8th repeated for information to United Kingdom Delegation New York, Cairo, Rhodes, Haifa and Washington.

Your telegram No. 2917 to United Kingdom Delegation.

Names are

- (1) T.M.E. Bryant, Deputy General [gp. undec. ? Assistant].
- (2) T.A. Downs, Technical Assistant (electrical engineer)
- (3) W.G. Hawkins, Station Superintendent.
- (4) F.W. Silvester, clerk.
- (5) A.T.P. Leech, General Duties Officer.

All employees of "Jerusalem Electric and Public Services Corporation Ltd", incorporated in the United Kingdom.

2. Sheringham is going to Jewish area this morning to make personal contact with Belgian Consul General and Jewish Agency and if possible visit electricity plant.

Foreign Office please repeat to United Kingdom Delegation New York No. 49, Washington No. 16, Haifa No. 28 and Rhodes No. 2.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York, Washington, Haifa and Rhodes].


V V V

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E

120

E 9207

1948

PALESTINE

9 JUL 1948

Registry Number | E9207/1260/31

TELEGRAM FROM Acting Consul-General JERUSALEM.

No. 242. Dated Secret 8.7.48 Received in Registry 9.7.48

Charges against British subjects abducted by Irgun Zvai Leumi in Jerusalem.

Refers Jerusalem telegram No. 241 of 8th. July. (E9165/1260/31). Mr. Sheringham has seen Dr. Joseph and the Haganah Military Commander of Southern Jerusalem, and was told that the Irgun had 'serious charges of espionage' against the arrested men. Jewish authorities were negotiating for the men to be handed over to them, and had received assurances that the prisoners would not be maltreated. If they were handed over to Haganah, Consulate would be informed and would be given facilities to safeguard their interests. Repeated to UK Del. New York, Cairo, Rhodes, Haifa, and Washington.

Last Paper.

E 9165.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

9/Palestine Dist (w/c E 8782) 9 July copied to Mr Nibert (F Dept) Mr Box (T. Dept) 14 July.

(Action completed.)

15. 12/7

(Ind.)

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

E 9207

(Minutes.)

It may be possible to give Mr BRYANT's letter some slight encouragement.

Janet Kirkell. 9.vii

Mr Bryant's letter, & the London office of the Consulate, inquired by phone

See within document of Jerusalem 242 of 8/7

2) ... 242. 4.9.vii 14/7 F.22.vii

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121
E. 9207/1260/31.

AMENDED COPY
13th July, 1948

PW

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

Jerusalem telegram No.242 to Foreign Office
8th July.

Paragraph 3 line 14 for [grps undec] read:-

"Such an approach, which would have no political motive and would indeed be distasteful, would hardly be likely to enhance the prestige of more regular Jewish authorities. Doctor Joseph professed to be unmoved by this and said Consulate would doubtless do whatever it thought most useful in the circumstances. The Haganah Officer however told Sheringham that he nearly fell off his chair when he heard it suggested that British might approach IZL.

4. Belgian Consul General was in Tel aviv [grps omitted]!"

[Note by Communications Department:
A further repetition of omitted groups is being obtained].

B B B

*a large and important
omission.*

*J. Balfour
14 7*

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E 3207

122

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Cypher/CTP

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Acting British Consul General.
No. 242 D. 6.49 p.m. 8th July, 1948
8th July, 1948 R. 8.50 p.m. 8th July, 1948

Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York,
Cairo, Rhodes, Haifa and Washington.

IMMEDIATE
SECRET

E 9165/2

~~Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 242 of July 8th, repeated for information to United Kingdom Delegation New York, Cairo, Rhodes, Haifa and Washington.~~

My telegram No. 241.

Abducted British subjects.

Sheringham saw Doctor Bernard Joseph and Haganah Military Commander of Southern Jerusalem this morning. He was told that I.Z.L. said that it had "serious charges of espionage" against the arrested men but that neither Haganah nor Jewish Agency had seen the evidence. Jewish authorities were negotiating to secure handing over to them of the men and had received assurances that they would not be maltreated. A similar assurance was given to the chairman of the Truce Commission. If they were handed to Haganah this Consulate would be informed immediately and could rest assured that any charges would be fairly and properly investigated. If they were held by Haganah Consulate would be given proper facilities to safeguard their interests. Doctor Joseph denied all knowledge of the whereabouts of the arrested men and was unable to confirm the information given in the following paragraph. He added that if he was any judge of character, which he thought he was, he would be very surprised if there was anything in the charges against Bryant (Bryant has managed to keep on good terms with both communities but has many Jewish friends and is known as a moderate sympathiser with Jewish aspirations).

2. Sheringham was given the following information by two British journalists. It is generally believed all but two of the arrested men would soon be released. It is thought there is something in the charges against the two to be kept, Hawkins and Sylvester, particularly view of suicide in Tel Aviv of a certain Major Rubiansky who was an official of Jerusalem Electric

Corporation and

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123

Jerusalem telegram No.242 to F.O.

- 2 -

Corporation and a senior Haganah officer and had been charged with espionage and offered the choice of execution or suicide. A certain Mrs. Geiger, a Palestinian who is a friend of Bryant, and a British ex Army and Police Officer named Harrison were also arrested by I.Z.L. but soon released. It is rumoured that Hawkins and Sylvester have been removed to territory of "state of Israel". Doctor Joseph said he hoped this was true since they would be safer there. He also said he had gone to Tel Aviv yesterday to inform Shertok fully of the incident and that the Provisional Government would probably discuss it at their meeting this afternoon; they might as a result of their meeting be able to do something (presumably through right wing members of the Government). One journalist said he knew that the arrested men had been kept, at least at first, in a house next to the Czechoslovak Consulate but would not agree to this information being passed on to Doctor Joseph.

5. Sheringham stressed the serious view which His Majesty's Government took of the incident and the bad effect it was likely to have on Anglo Jewish relations at a time when many were hoping the past might soon be forgotten. State of chaos which it revealed in Jerusalem and the inability of the Jewish authorities even to secure respect for the flags of the Security Council Truce Commission was hardly likely to do the Jews any good at Lake Success. He added that with paramount consideration of securing the safety of British subjects in mind this Consulate might have to consider a direct approach to the I.Z.L., even to Menahim Beigin himself if necessary, if it became apparent that Jewish Agency and Haganah were unable to secure the release of the arrested men. [Gps. undec.] this morning. Sheringham called instead on the American who was unable to add to what has been said above. Belgium Consul General telephoned this afternoon, to say he had raised the incident with the authorities in Tel Aviv and that the Truce Commission was meeting at 1500 hours G.M.T. to prepare its report on it to the Security Council. Sheringham thanked him in my name for his efforts on behalf of the arrested men.

Foreign Office pass Immediate to New York, Washington, Haifa and Rhodes as my telegrams Nos. 50, 17,27 and 3.

[Repeated to New York, Washington, Haifa and Rhodes].

[Note by Communications Department: Repetition of undecypherable groups being obtained].

k k

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E

E 9288

126

1948

PALESTINE

10 JUL 1948

Registry Number } E9288/1260/31

TELEGRAM FROM
JERUSALEM (Acting
No. Consul General)
245

Dated 9 Jul 48

Received in Registry } 10 Jul 48

Intention to hand over to regular forces of
Government of Israel of 5 arrested British subjects.

Dr Bernard Joseph states that he hopes that the 5 British subjects would be handed over to Government of Israel shortly. In that event, the accusations against them would be fairly investigated and a trial conducted under international law. It is considered that it is best that the men should be in the hands of the "Government of Israel" and so no objection has been raised on legal grounds in the meantime.

Last Paper.

E 9207

(Minutes.)

1ance Shitell 10.vii

References.

Consular Dept. have a copy.

DB
21/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Rhetone det July 12
Copied Mr Vibert (K Dept)
Mr Cox (T. Dept)
July 14

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

CS 26/8

[Handwritten signature]
10/7/48

Next Paper.

E 9308

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E 9288

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DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Acting British Consul General,
No.245
9th July, 1948. D. 2.39 p.m. 9th July, 1948.
R. 3.53 p.m. 9th July, 1948.

Repeated to New York UKDEL.
Cairo,
Haifa.

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.245 of 9th July,
repeated to UKDEL New York, Cairo and Haifa.

Doctor Bernard Joseph informed me this morning that he hoped the five British subjects would be handed over to "regular forces of Government of Israel" very shortly.

2. He assured me that in that event accusations against them would be fairly investigated and, if prima facie substantiated, any trial would be conducted in accordance with recognised international usage. In order that negotiations for this should not be prejudiced, he asked me to treat the matter as confidential for the moment.

3. Since it is obviously preferable that the men should be in the hands of "Government of Israel" I did not raise any of the possible legal objections to the procedure advocated.

Foreign Office please pass to UKDEL New York and Haifa as my telegrams Nos. 52 and 29 respectively.

[Repeated to UKDEL New York and Haifa].

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E

126

E 9308

PALESTINE

12 JUL 1948

Registry Number E9308/1260/31

TELEGRAM FROM JERUSALEM (Acting No. 243 Consul General)

Dated 9 Jul 48

Received in Registry 12 Jul 48

Possibility of "coup d'état" by Irgun Zwei Leumi.

Effective strength of I.Z.L. in Jerusalem is thought to be about 2,000, and it appears that "legal" Jewish authorities exercise very little control over them. It is sometimes said that the authorities deliberately disown the dissidents publicly while using them to do any "dirty work", but it would be dangerous to believe this completely, as Jewish State may really be in a precarious position. ~~There~~ The power of the dissidents is penetrating, and some "respectable" people are now coming into the open as supporters of the dissidents and they would no doubt become political figures in the event of a "coup d'état".

Last Paper.

E 9288

References.

E 8691/6090/31

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Palastine chat (100/100) July 1

(Action completed.)

E 9308

(Index.)

10/12/48

Next Paper.

E 9311

^(Minutes.)

I imagine the Jews wd. not be averse to taking over Jewish authorities wd. not be averse to taking over Jerusalem if it fell into their lap, as a result of an I.Z.L. coup. I suppose there is little enough that the United Nations will be prepared to do about para 3 unless the uniform incident mentioned in E 9317. We wd. speak to Dr. Goldmann on his next visit. though I doubt whether this wd. do much good.

Laurel P. H. 12: viii

- See within: minute from Mr. Sheringham (Jerusalem) to Sir H. Dow, dated 4th July.

The third and last paragraphs of this minute, which completes the picture of Jewish opinion in Jerusalem, confirm the impression that Jerusalem may be heading for an I.Z.L. coup d'état. There is also a more recent telegram from Mr. Beaumont (No 246) reporting that, according to a Tel Aviv broadcast, the Municipal Affairs committee of the Jewish Community Council has asked for Jerusalem to be incorporated in the Jewish State.

It must be borne in mind that should the Tel Aviv government take over Jerusalem (say, after a successful campaign leading to withdrawal of the Arab Legion), they will not then be able to hand the city over to the U.N. for international administration in virtue of the November resolution without very serious trouble with Irgun. It cannot even be guaranteed

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that the Provisional Govt would win against begun in Jerusalem, and in view of this and also of tentative statements by Shertok and others, it is highly probable that once in possession of Jerusalem the Tel-Aviv Govt will be ~~driven~~ by their internal situation and their natural appetite to ignore the U.N. Decision and try to get away with the fact accomplished. In this connection, it may be that all the delays which we have favoured in the Trusteeship Council over approval of the Jerusalem Statute, appointment of a governor, and general implementation of Part III of the Partition Plan, will prove to be highly disadvantageous to the Jews. I submit that it may be worth considering the proposition at Lake Success of some new move for the assertion of the principle that Jerusalem is to be under international régime. Even if the Jews ignored it, it would at least have the advantage of putting them in the wrong with U.N.O. as well as the Arabs. The advantages of such a result might prove very great indeed, while to keep the question of the Jerusalem régime in virtual suspense in the hope of satisfying Arab opinion may ~~result~~ merely lead to Jewish domination of the city.

In his last sentence Mr. Bevan makes a suggestion for action vis à vis the Jews. It is for consideration whether such action should be taken and through what channels.

D. Balfour
13/7

The danger to which Mr. Balfour draws attention is real enough. The resolution now being discussed by the Security Council calls for a cease-fire in Jerusalem within 24 hours and for the demilitarisation of the city. If the resolution is not adopted, or if it does not become effective, we should consider the question urgently.

H. B. C. 13/7

B.u. on July 20th
13/7

Sir 7 Hinchpost
+ Mr. Roberts
J.K. 15.7
M. 14.7

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Jerusalem telegram to Foreign Office No. 243.

-2-

certainly appears reasonable in the present circumstances. Haganah is profoundly mistrustful of the dissidents and has tried to remove them from all positions in the front line, because they cannot be trusted not to go off on private operations without regard to general military plan (a failing which does not seem to be limited to dissidents; Gershon Agronsky in a conversation with Sheringham has laid the blame for the failure to relieve the Old City through the Zion Gate on Palmach units, who left the scene because their demand for support was not immediately met). On the other hand a surprising number of "respectable" persons are now coming into the open as supporters of the dissidents. These would doubtless become political figures in the event of any "coup d'état".

3. Dissidents also constitute the main danger to continuance of the cease fire or the demilitarisation of Jerusalem, neither of which is likely to be welcome to them. Indeed every observer staying at the King David Hotel not long ago found a neatly typed notice in English pinned to his pillow, saying that I.Z.L. did not want the cease fire and that the observers had better go home. The problem is one which can only be tackled by the "Government of Israel" and its representatives in Jerusalem. I suggest that every possible opportunity be taken, in Jerusalem, Haifa, London and Lake Success to emphasise to Jewish representatives the dangers of the situation.

Foreign Office please pass to United Kingdom Delegation New York, Washington and Haifa as my telegrams 51, 18 and 28 respectively.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York and Washington and Saving to Haifa.]

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Report on visits to Jewish Jerusalem submitted
by Mr. Sherrington to Sir Hugh Dow.

INDEXED

I visited Jewish Jerusalem on June 14/15 and July 2/3 and met a reasonably representative cross-section of all but the poorer classes (who in the orthodox and oriental communities are numerous).

2. The Jews of Jerusalem have had a hard time ; during the ~~seige~~ food was scanty and dull (but probably sufficient --- people were certainly not starving), water was strictly rationed and was doled out to queues (and still is), cigarettes were almost unobtainable, and the bombardment of the town made daily life difficult and dangerous. The cease-fire was unmistakably welcomed and the one question which everyone asked me on my second visit was whether it would continue (my answer that I hoped so but did not know was received with polite incredulity ; it is firmly believed that the whole issue depends on HMG's advice to the Arab states). Nevertheless morale is high ; the inhabitants are proud of their stand which they compare with that of Londoners during the blitz. If necessary they are prepared to continue the struggle and say, I think sincerely, that they will fight to the bitter end rather than surrender to the Arabs. I should say that the morale of the Haganah is about as high as that of any army could be. The first cocksure certainty has given way to a sober pride in the achievements of Jewish arms coupled with a measure of respect for the enemy. Until shortly before the cease-fire the Haganah was, I think, short of ammunition and heavy armament (which means in Jerusalem large mortars) but this seems now to have been remedied, probably thanks to convoys which got through before UN control was established on the Tel Aviv road. I should say that the position of the Jews has improved morally and physically more than that of the Arabs during the cease-fire. The flight to Tel Aviv has been less serious than that to Bethlehem and Jewish energy has done more than Arab in the way of building fortifications behind the backs of the observers.

3. The Jews would probably still welcome the establishment of an international regime in Jerusalem but somewhat less enthusiastically than at the beginning of the cease-fire. I suspect that a slight change of attitude has been inspired from Tel Aviv which is at present considering the status of Jerusalem vis a vis the State of Israel. The practical and other disadvantages of the present position in which authority is shared between two bodies who have a legal existence, the Municipality and the Jewish Community Council, and two which have not, the Military Commanders and the Emergency Committee, are becoming more manifest. The Israeli Government seems to have only two courses open to it, to proclaim Jerusalem part of the Jewish state or to set up a military government by virtue of ~~and~~ an occupation by the Israeli army. I gather that the latter, which seems preferable from the

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Minutes

point of view of international law, is the more favoured. It is quite clear that if the UN does not do something soon (some Jews think that the best thing is for Count Bernadotte to come here himself) the Israeli Government will have to act.

4. There is a very real and deep bitterness over the shelling of Jerusalem, not against the Arabs but against Britain, The shelling did surprisingly little damage to buildings but caused approximately 2000 civilian casualties, of which 400 were fatal and another 400 so serious as to result ultimately in death or ~~xx~~ life-long incapacity. It is said that these casualties are proportionately heavier than those caused by the London blitz and I was bitterly told stories of whole families wiped out, of a shell hitting a queue of women waiting for water, and of the specially heavy shelling of the Street of the Prophets containing four hospitals under Red Cross protection and not on the front line. It is argued that all this was done by an army paid for ~~by~~ by Britain, commanded by British officers, firing British guns with British ammunition (some of which is said to have been dated as ~~late~~ late as April, 1948). It is firmly believed that had they wished to use it HMG had enough influence with King Abdullah to stop what is held to be intentional and indiscriminate killing of civilians. Outside religious circles feeling about the shelling far exceeds that about the destruction of the Jewish Quarter of the Old City. The bitterest were those formerly best disposed to Britain , e.g. Dr. Oppenheimer who has delivered half the British babies born in Jerusalem for many years, or Dr. Senator, a non-Zionist who as a member of Ihud has consistently worked for better Anglo-Jewish-Arab relations and opposed the idea of a Jewish state. Dr. Senator told me almost in despair that he thought that ~~that~~ irreparable damage had been done to Anglo-Jewish relations and consequently to the possibility of a western orientation of the Jewish state.

5. I do not take so pessimistic a view as Dr. Senator who is no politician. Mr. Ben Gurion has quite recently offered to forget the past in return for a change in our attitude to the Jewish state and doubtless has good political reasons for doing so. Mr. Agronsky at the end of a long discussion in which he put the Jewish point of view with considerably more force than I have done in the preceding paragraph ~~he~~ gave me a cutting of his leading article for May 14th. reading out to me its end which well expresses the almost wistful longing of some Jews to get on good terms with us again :

We shall cling to the shadow cast by England's great men, and leave it to memory to dim the pettiness of the little men. We

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7

were with Britain body and soul, in adversity and advance, when Britain fought the civilised man's fight. We shall live in the hope that the good, the gracious and the just will triumph once more wherever Britons go or destiny takes Britain.

6. There is however one condition to the success of any efforts towards improving Anglo-Jewish relations, that we supply no more arms and ammunition to any Arab state until a Palestine settlement has been firmly achieved. A resumption of supplies would finally alienate those Jews who are well disposed towards us and greatly help the dissidents. It would also, it seems to me, do no good to the Arabs since the Jews would almost certainly win the ensuing armaments race with Russian and probably American help. The Arabs might be able to lay Jewish Jerusalem in ruins at the cost of ~~ruining~~ Arab Jerusalem too but they would neither get the Jews of Jerusalem to surrender nor be able to overthrow the Jewish state. We should still have sooner or later to tell the Arabs that they had ~~had~~ post the war.

6 ruining

7. The position of the dissidents in Jerusalem is hard to ascertain but my feeling is that everyone is by now for or against them. The strength of the IZL and the number of its supporters is probably greater in Jerusalem than in Tel Aviv or Haifa. Here it is at the best only precariously subject to any authority other than itself and constitutes the gravest danger on the Jewish side to any rational arrangements for Jerusalem. The Jewish leaders will need all their skill and courage to extricate themselves from the dilemma into which their past ineptitudes have got them, whether to establish their own authority at the cost of reducing, possibly seriously, Jerusalem's ability to defend itself against further Arab attacks, or to sacrifice their authority and possibly their international position in the face of the almost overwhelming needs of defence.

The Stern Gang is internally of less importance but it is even less under control than the IZL and is liable at any time to upset any arrangements by some act of folly.

J.S.
4/7/48

(JOHN SHERINGHAM)

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E 9311

31

PALESTINE

12 JUL 1948

Registry Number } E9311/1260/31

TELEGRAM FROM JERUSALEM (Acting No. 252 Consul General

Dated 11 Jul 48

Received in Registry } 12 Jul 48

Possibility of handing over to Haganah and trial of five captured British subjects.

Refers to Jerusalem telegram 245 (E9288/1260/31). Dr Joseph informed that it was hoped that I.Z.L. would hand over the five British subjects to Haganah soon, but thought that they were not being ill treated. Jim Hayes, British journalist, states that I.Z.L. have announced that charges would be made public within 48 hours. It is thought that some prisoners will be put on trial for "espionage on behalf of the enemy" i.e. the Arabs, and it is suggested that Jerusalem Electric Corporation in London brief a competent lawyer, preferably an English Jew, to stand by.

Last Paper.

E9308

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Palestine Post July
Copied into Gilbert (to Dept).
has been (T. Dept)
14 July.
Outlet. Haifa 290 July 12
Palestine Post, July 15
E9007
copy to Mr. Gilbert (to Dept)
V.I. box (to Dept) July 17

(Action completed.)

16/7

(Initials)
[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

E9392

(Minutes.)

- See within, letter from Jerus. Electric Corpⁿ, (to whom I spoke by phone.

Tels were sent to Jerusalem & Haifa about Gushy Asher Levitsky; answer received by morning of 14th July.

The Corpⁿ have had a message from Kennedy newspaper, confirming the role of Jim Hayes, who appears also to have suspected Levitsky himself.

D.B.
13/7

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E 3011

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[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.]

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Acting British Consul General
No. 252 D. 7.19 a.m. 11th July, 1948
11th July, 1948. R. 8.55 a.m. 11th July, 1948

Repeated to U.K. Del. New York
Haifa.
Cairo.

IMMEDIATE
SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 252 of July 10th repeated to Cairo, U.K. Del. New York and Haifa.

My telegram No. 245. E 3288 ^{1260/3}

Abducted British subjects.

Dr. Joseph telephoned this morning to say that I.Z.L. said that their investigations would soon be complete and that he hoped the prisoners would soon be handed over to Haganah. Haganah officers handling the affair believed that they were not being ill treated. I am unable to confirm reports that Bryant and possibly others were seen today at a distance blindfolded but apparently well by a British Jewish journalist.

2. This evening Jim Hayes, a British journalist, telephoned to say he had been informed by I.Z.L. that charges against the prisoners would be made public within 48 hours and that their trial would probably take place before a Haganah military court in Tel Aviv. He was much concerned about getting competent legal defence and was told by I.Z.L. that he could go ahead in engaging a local lawyer. Joseph denied all knowledge of the state of affairs revealed by Hayes. He said that the question whether a prosecution would be instituted when evidence was produced would have to be decided in Tel Aviv and that in view of the conditions in Jerusalem it was not impossible that the trial would take place in Tel Aviv. He was told that I should expect earliest possible notification of the intention to remove the prisoners to Tel Aviv and should expect to be given every facility in looking after their interests. He was requested to convey this to the authorities in Tel Aviv and promised to do so.

3. I regard it as highly probable that some at least of the prisoners will be put on trial. If convicted on a charge such as "espionage on behalf of the enemy" i.e. the Arabs, it is not improbable that they would be executed.

/I advise that the

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Jerusalem telegram No. 252 to Foreign Office

2.

I advise that the Jerusalem Electric Corporation in London brief a competent lawyer to stand by to proceed to Jerusalem or Tel Aviv at short notice. An eminent English Jew would be preferable.

4. At my request, made before the information in paragraph 2 was available, the Truce Commission has not again to consider further approach to the Jewish authorities. The Commission has decided to remove its flags from the power station which thus becomes a legitimate target for the Arabs. As you are aware, it is the property of a British company.

Foreign Office please pass to U.K. Delegation New York and Haifa as my telegrams Nos. 53 and 51 respectively.

[Repeated to U.K. Delegation New York. Not repeated to Haifa pending departmental instructions].

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Registry

No. 9311/1260/B1

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Confidential.
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HB

CYPHER

F.O.

19/7 1948

34

Draft.

~~Most~~ Immediate
Confidential

Despatched 5/1 M.

HAIFA

~~Addressed to the... of~~

Telegram.

No. 290

(Date) July 12

Repeat to:—

As you may be aware, five British nationals have been seized by the I.Z.L. in Jerusalem. It is possible that they may be handed over to the Jewish authorities, and that proceedings may be instituted against them in a court. The Jerusalem Electric Corporation, by which the men are employed, wish to brief Mr. Asher Levitsky to defend them in that event. Jerusalem have been instructed to contact him if possible, but he may be in some other part of Palestine. In that event Jerusalem will ask you to try to find him and inform him of the Company's wishes.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

== En Clair ==

== Code ==

Cypher.

Distribution:—

Departmental

H.B. 12/7

[Communication Dept: This telegram must go to-night, but could go "immediate" if you agree]

Copies to

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13 JUL 1948

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DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO HAIFA

No. 290

12th July, 1948.

D. 8.05 p.m. 12th July, 1948.

MOST IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

As you may be aware, five British nationals have been seized by the I.Z.L. in Jerusalem. It is possible that they may be handed over to the Jewish authorities, and that proceedings may be instituted against them in a court. The Jerusalem Electric Corporation, by which the men are employed, wish to brief Mr. Asher Levitsky to defend them in that event. Jerusalem have been instructed to contact him if possible, but he may be in some other part of Palestine. In that event Jerusalem will ask you to try to find him and inform him of the Company's wishes.

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Registry
No. 9311/1260/31

Tap Source
Secret
Confidential.
Restricted
Open

HB

CYPHER

136

~~Immediate~~
~~Confidential~~

Despatched 4-5 M.

~~Address W. Jerusalem, telegram no.~~

Draft.

JERUSALEM

Telegram.

No. 418

(Date) July 12

Repeat to:—

Your telegram No. 252 [of 11th July].
A Parliamentary Question has been put down for Wednesday, asking for information on the five British subjects kidnapped by I.Z.L. Please telegraph your latest news of them by most immediate telegram, to reach me on Wednesday morning.

2. Your para. 3. Jerusalem Electric Corporation wish to brief Mr. Asher Levitsky, believed to be in Jerusalem, who has previously acted on their behalf. Please make contact with him if possible and instruct him accordingly. If he is not in Jerusalem, you should inform Haifa, who are instructed to take action in that event.

[Copy sent to M.E. Secretariat]

HB 127

~~En Clair~~

~~Code~~

Cypher.

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Departmental

13 JUL 1948

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FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO JERUSALEM.

No. 418.

D. 4.5 a.m. 13th July 1948.

12th July 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Your telegram No.252 [of 11th July].

A Parliamentary Question has been put down for Wednesday, asking for information on the five British subjects kidnapped by I.Z.L. Please telegraph your latest news of them by most immediate telegram, to reach me on Wednesday morning.

2. Your paragraph 3. Jerusalem Electric Corporation wish to brief Mr. Asher Levitsky, believed to be in Jerusalem, who has previously acted on their behalf. Please make contact with him if possible and instruct him accordingly. If he is not in Jerusalem, you should inform Haifa, who are instructed to take action in that event.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat.]

W:W:W:W:W

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"RUOFLAB. CANNON. LONDON"

CABLE ADDRESS:
"RUOFLAB. LONDON"

INDEXED
E 9311 / 1260 / 2031

Jerusalem Electric & Public Service Corporation Limited

(Incorporated under the Palestine Companies Ordinances, 1921 to 1925)

DIRECTORS:

WILLIAM SHEARER (CHAIRMAN)
H. G. BALFOUR
D. C. BROOK, F.S.A.
G. E. DENT
RT. HON. SIR CUTHBERT HEADLAM, Bt.,
P.C., D.S.O., O.B.E.
RT. HON. LORD RANKEILLOUR, P.C.
D. S. WARREN

London Office:

66, QUEEN STREET,
LONDON, E.C.4

12th July, 1948.

D. J. Balfour, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
The Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
Whitehall,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Dear Mr. Balfour,

Further to the message communicated by you this afternoon, and my discussion with you, I would confirm that we are in communication with our Solicitors, Messrs. Slaughter & May, with a view to obtaining a suitable eminent English-Jewish Lawyer to proceed to Palestine to represent our employees held by Ingun, and that meantime we have requested you to ascertain whether Mr. Asher Levitsky, Barrister-at-Law, is in Jerusalem and whether he can be briefed to represent our men.

Yours truly,

Tel: sent to Jerusalem and Tripoli a evening

BCN/PC.

12th July 1948 P.W.

*Z.B.
19/7*

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1948

E 9458

PALESTINE.

Registry Number E9458/1260/31

TELEGRAM FROM
JERUSALEM (Acting
No. 265 Consul General

Dated 13 Jul 48

Received in Registry 13 Jul 48

Statement by Jewish Agency spokesman to the effect that there are serious charges against the 5 arrested British subjects, and an effort is being made to have them handed over from I.Z.L. to Govt of Israel, when they will be tried, if there are grounds

Last Paper.

E9392

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

6) Palestine dist July 12
(11) E9815

copied) Mr Nibors (to Dept)
Mr Lohr (to Dept).

14 July.

P.W. copied to Mr
Wiggin on 14 July

(Action completed.)

15/7

(Index)

15/7/48

Next Paper.

E 9458

(Minutes.)

This is not at all satisfactory; but we cannot make more representations than we are at the moment doing. 4.15.vii

(See minutes).

1. Jerusalem Tel. No. 265 of 13/7
2. Extract 'Daily Telegraph' of 10/7
'Daily Mail' of 10/7
- 3) .. 'Times' of 12/7

4.17.vii

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9458

E 140

En Clair

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Acting British Consul General.

No. 263.

D. 9.21.a.m. 13th July 1948.

13th July 1948.

R. 10.40.a.m. 13th July 1948.

IMMEDIATE

Jewish Agency spokesman yesterday made following statement about the five abducted British subjects.

[Begins]

We understand that there is evidence of serious charges against the five English men detained by the I.Z.L. An effort is being made to arrange that these persons shall be handed over to the Government of Israel in order that the charges against them may be investigated and that they may be put on trial if grounds be found for so doing. [Ends]

Foreign Office please pass immediate to U.K. Delegation New York as my telegram 55.

[Repeated immediate to U.K. Del. New York.]



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9458/1260/31

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En clair.

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Acting British Consul General.
No. 265.

D. 4.50 p.m. 13th July, 1948.
R. 5.54 p.m. 13th July, 1948.

13th July, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

My telegram No. 265.

9458/1260.

Abducted British subjects.

It has been reported to various of my colleagues in Jewish Jerusalem that a number of "well-known Consuls" are involved in the affair.



pw with pp as
soon as available.

L7.16.vii

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1948

PALESTINE

9473

14 JUL 1948

Registry Number E9473/1260/31

FROM U.K. DEL NEW YORK

No. 165 (17/200/48)

Dated 8 Jul 48

Received in Registry 14 Jul 48

Copy of letter to Secretary General of United Nations, giving report on the capture of five British subjects by Irgun Zvai Leumi.

Copy also sent to Washington.

Last Paper

E9458

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

[Handwritten signatures and dates]

Next Paper

E9479

See E9479.

(Minutes.)

4. 14: vii

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165 (17/200/48)

Nations at New York

HIS Majesty's Permanent Delegate to the United Nations presents his compliments to H.M.P.S. of S. and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Delegation to the United Nations, New York, N.Y.

8th July

Reference to previous correspondence: 2917 E-9115/1260 Foreign Office telegram No. 2817 of 7th July, 1948.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of letter to Secretary-General, United Nations. (Copy also sent to Washington).	Palestine

143

RECEIVED 10.06

12 JUL 1948

SENT TO DEPT.

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 68654

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No. 147(17/200/48)

8th July, 1948.

Sir,

I have the honour, under instructions from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to request you to convey the following information to the Security Council.

2. His Majesty's Consul-General at Jerusalem was informed on the morning of July 7th that, during the previous night, five British subjects resident at the Jerusalem Electric Corporation Plant were detained by the Irgun Zvai Lomai.
3. The Belgian Consul-General, as Chairman of the United Nations Truce Commission whose flag flies on the building, at once investigated the incident and tried unsuccessfully to get in touch with His Majesty's Consul-General by telephone. He protested to the Jewish Agency who promised to take the matter up forthwith.
4. On learning of the incident His Majesty's Consul-General telephoned to Dr. Bernard Joseph of the Jewish Agency who said that he sincerely deplored this action and promised to do his utmost to get the men released.
5. I shall submit to the Council any further information that may come to hand regarding this incident. The above facts have also been communicated to the United Nations Mediator.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

His Excellency,
Monsieur Trygve Lie,
Secretary-General,
United Nations,
Lake Success, L.I.

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143

E

145

1948

PALFONE

9473

14 JUL 1948

Registry Number | E9479/1260/31

FROM U.K. DEL NEW YORK
(Mr P Falla)
No. 17/201/48

Dated 9 Jul 48

Received in Registry | 14 Jul 48

Attitude to be adopted in the Security Council on the question of the 5 British subjects who were captured by Irgun Zwei Leumi.

Security Council has been given an initial report on the capture of the 5 British subjects. Suggests that it would not be advisable to worry this question as it may only confirm an opinion which is already held by many that the main British interest in Palestine question is "to score points in a vendetta against the Jews". Wishes to be informed if Foreign Office opinion is contrary to this suggestion.

Last Paper

E 9473

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Del New York 3055
Rptd W'Yon 7838
Remailed 462
D'151 808

July 16.

8. p'lars Dist. + Remailed
July 7

Del New York 3783, 11 sub
Rptd W'Yon 7721
Remailed 462
Chaija 17 Savitz

8. As above, July 20.

(Action completed)

(Index)

J.L.H. 23/7

10/2/48

Next Paper

E 9498

(Minutes.)

Lawrence H. 14:vi

Mr Falla mistakes our report. We want to worry the Govt of Israel, not I.C.L. and the affair may assume proportions far larger than he presumes.

D. Balfour 14/7

See E 9481

H.B. 22/7

S. P. P. H. Minutes, W. Keeley. 17. July

47.27:vi

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Private Secretary

FAIR

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

British Consul General

July 16th, 1948.

D. 3.50.p.m. July 16th, 1948.
R. 5.12.p.m. July 16th, 1948.

Reputed to U.K. Del New York No. 58 Important
Haifa No. 54 Important.

[Handwritten mark]

MOST IMMEDIATE

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 280 of July 16th.
repeated for information Important to United Kingdom Delegation
New York and Important to Haifa.

by telegram No. 266.

Five abducted British subjects.

Dr. Bernard Joseph has just informed member of my staff
that men have this afternoon been handed over to "armed forces
of State of Israel" (i.e. Hagannah) and that they are being
conveyed to Tel Aviv.

2. I have asked him that we should be enabled to provide
them with legal aid and he assured me that they should receive
all proper facilities.

Foreign office please pass to United Kingdom Delegation
as my telegram No. 58.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York].

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

—o o—

J. H. ...

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Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Minutes.

E 9479/1260/31

INDEXED

Pw
147

The five British Subjects kidnapped
in Jerusalem.

Sir Alexander Cadogan telephoned from New York yesterday with reference to our telegram No. 3055 to him on this subject.

He said he was doubtful of the wisdom of raising the question as we had suggested, for the following reasons -

- (1) The Truce Commission had informed the Security Council that it had given time to the Jewish authorities for compliance with their demand that the five men should be surrendered, and the time limit had not yet been reached.
- (2) Ventilation of the question in the Security Council might imply some recognition of the authority of "Israel" in Jerusalem.
- (3) It had been reported in the American press that the Minister of State, answering questions on the subject in the House of Commons, had stated that H.M. Government did not hold the Jewish authorities responsible for this action of Irgun.
- (4) Mr. Eban might link the question with that of Cyprus, where we were detaining 9,000 Jews without complete legal justification.

Sir Alexander Cadogan also said that the Security Council had adjourned until the beginning of next week and if he was to carry out our instructions literally he would have to convene a special meeting for the purpose.

I said that we did not want him to go to that length. We had assumed that the Council would be meeting again yesterday to continue discussion of the Syrian resolution and that the matter could relevantly be introduced then. In the circumstances it would suffice if he ensured that Palestine was on the Agenda at the next meeting of the Council and if he then raised/

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Minutes.

raised the question. In any event we wished him to do so in the terms of our telegram, subject to any change in the situation before the next meeting of the Security Council. We would keep him informed by telegram. I will draft on Monday morning in the light of our latest information.

H. B. Beley
17th July, 1948.

mtls

17.7

Ed. sent

H. B. 18/7

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
EMPIRE STATE BUILDING
NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

TELEPHONE:
LONGACRE 5-2070

No. 17/20/48

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Harold,

As instructed in Foreign Office telegram No.2917 of July 7th, we have passed on to the Security Council the information in Jerusalem telegram No.238 about the kidnapping of five British subjects by the Irgun Zvai Leumi. This has been circulated as document S/874 of July 8th.

We have not yet received the fuller information suggested in paragraph 3 of the Foreign Office telegram, and pending instructions we are not passing on to the United Nations the further details in Jerusalem telegram No.242 of July 8th.

We presume that your object in instructing us to inform the Council of this matter (which has been quite fully reported in the press here) was to illustrate the lack of respect shown by I.Z.L. to the United Nations and particularly to the Truce Commission. As such it is no doubt quite a useful piece of evidence, though I doubt if anyone here, including Eban, requires any convincing of the general lawlessness of the Irgun. You may, however, agree that against the wider background of resumed hostilities in Palestine it would be somewhat out of place for us to go on worrying this question, especially if we did so in such a way as to confirm the impression - which I hope can be gradually killed - that our main interest in the Palestine question is to score points in a vendetta against the Jews.

In this connection, and with reference to paragraph 3 of Jerusalem telegram No.242, I can well imagine Eban asking who was responsible for the "state of chaos ... in Jerusalem" and whether, for example, the Egyptian pilots who fired on a United Nations observer plane not long ago had any more respect for the United Nations flag than the I.Z.L.!

I am sending a copy of this letter to Denis Allen in Washington.

Yours ever,

(P.S.Falla)

Harold Beeley, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

P.T.O.

148 Entered
in - documents
1/11/48

RECEIVED IN O.B.
13 JUL 1948
SENT TO DEPT.
9479
14 JUL 1948

REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED
P. O. BOX 304
NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

9th July, 1948.

9115/1260

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P.S.

Since the above was drafted we have received Jerusalem telegram No.241 of July 7th with the men's names and description. In the light of the foregoing we are inclined not to make a further communication to the Security Council at the moment; but please telegraph if you wish us to do so.

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HB

Draft.

Telegram to :-

U.K. Del. New York

No. 3055

(Date) July 16

Repeat to :-

7838
Washington
Jerusalem 462
BME0, 808

~~En-Clair~~
~~Coch~~
Cypher.

Distribution :-

World Organisation

RESERVED IN S.B.
17 JUL 1948

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

CYPLIFER
OUT FILE
16/7 141

Despatched 1-17 PM

Most Immediate
Giant

[Security classification] Confidential
-if any

Addressed to U.K. Del. New York

telegram No 3055 (date) 16 July

repeated for information to Washington

Jerusalem and BME0

Despite the efforts of H.M. Consulate-General, Jerusalem, the five British subjects kidnapped by the Irgun are still detained by that organisation. The local Jewish authorities in Jerusalem claim that they are making efforts to have the men handed over to their custody, but if this is true they have not yet succeeded.

2. It seems probable that the best way of persuading the Jewish authorities to take some effective action will be to use this affair as a means of embarrassing ^{the Jewish} ~~the~~ representative on the Security Council. You should therefore take the earliest possible occasion to raise the subject, preferably today.

3. You might begin by drawing the attention of the Council to the report which I understand the Truce Commission have submitted on Jewish designs in Jerusalem. You should then say that the seizure of the 5 British subjects does not inspire confidence in the pretensions of the Jewish leaders to exercise effective control over their community in Palestine. It is true that Jerusalem is not within the area over which they claim governmental authority but the Jewish forces in Jerusalem are presumably subject to

their/

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their military command. The impunity with which ^athe terrorist organisation has been able to seize and detain five foreign nationals, and the public statements made by that organisation to the effect that it will itself stage a trial of these nationals, are obvious symptoms of anarchy.

4. The Truce Commission will have made the point that the men were seized in a building flying the flags of the Truce Commission and under their protection. On this aspect of the question you should refer to article 105 of the Charter [~~"The organisation shall enjoy in the territories of each of its members such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the fulfilment of its purposes"~~] and Article II, section 3 of the General Convention on the privileges and immunities of the United Nations approved by the General Assembly for accession by all members. [~~The premises of the United Nations shall be inviolable~~]. Although Jerusalem is not in the territory of a member of the United Nations, and the authorities there are consequently under no legal obligation to give these immunities to the organisation, they are nevertheless under a strong moral obligation to ensure that the United Nations and ^{its} representatives are accorded those privileges and immunities to which they would be entitled in the territories of Member states. The capture of the 5 men is therefore an act for which the authorities claiming to administer the area in which it occurred can make amends only ^{immediately} by ~~surrendering~~ the men to the Truce Commission.

JK.
16.7.

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WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 3055

D. 1.17 p.m. 16th July, 1948.

16th July, 1948.

Repeated to: Washington No. 7858
Jerusalem No. 462
B.M.E.O. (Cairo) No. 808.

MOST IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

GIANT

Addressed to United Kingdom Delegation, New York,
telegram No. 3055 of 16th July, repeated for information to
Washington, Jerusalem and B.M.E.O. (Cairo).

Despite the efforts of His Majesty's Consulate-General, Jerusalem, the five British subjects kidnapped by the Irgun are still detained by that organisation. The local Jewish authorities in Jerusalem claim that they are making efforts to have the men handed over to their custody, but if this is true they have not yet succeeded.

2. It seems probable that the best way of persuading the Jewish authorities to take some effective action will be to use this affair as a means of embarrassing the Jewish representative on the Security Council. You should therefore take the earliest possible occasion to raise the subject, preferably to-day.

5. You might begin by drawing the attention of the Council to the report which I understand the Truce Commission have submitted on Jewish designs in Jerusalem. You should then say that the seizure of the 5 British subjects does not inspire confidence in the pretensions of the Jewish leaders to exercise effective control over their community in Palestine. It is true that Jerusalem is not within the area over which they claim governmental authority but the Jewish forces in Jerusalem are presumably subject to their military command. The impunity with which a terrorist organisation has been able to seize and detain five foreign nationals, and the public statements made by that organisation to the effect that it will itself stage a trial of these nationals, are obvious symptoms of anarchy.

4. The Truce Commission will have made the point that the men were seized in a building flying the flags of the Truce Commission and under their protection. On this aspect of the question you should refer to article 105 of the Charter and article II, section 5 of the General Convention on the privileges and immunities of the United

/Nations approved by the ...

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151

Foreign Office telegram to New York No. 5045.

- 2 -

Nations approved by the General Assembly for accession by all members. Although Jerusalem is not in the territory of a member of the United Nations, and the authorities there are consequently under no legal obligation to give these immunities to the organisation, they are nevertheless under a strong moral obligation to ensure that the United Nations and its representatives are accorded those privileges and immunities to which they would be entitled in the territories of Member states. The capture of the 5 men is therefore an act for which the authorities claiming to administer the area in which it occurred can make amends only by immediately surrendering the men to the Truce Commission.

SEE

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Draft.

UK Del. New York

Telegram.

No. 3083

(Date) July 18th

Repeat to:—

Washington 7945

Jerusalem 480

Haifa saving 1005

since passage on the
Jewish representation
then seems to be our
best means of
influencing the Jewish
authorities in Palestine

~~En Clair.~~
~~Code.~~
Cypher.

Distribution:—

Diplomatic

Copies to:—

RECEIVED IN O.P.
26 JUL 1948

OUT FILE

F.O.

194

Despatched

M.

Immediate

Confidential

Addressed to UK Del. New York, telegram
no. 3083 of 18/7, reported to Washington,
Jerusalem and saving at Haifa.

My telegram no. 3055 [7/16/48 July;
British subjects kidnapped in Jerusalem].

The considerations you put to Beelby
by telephone have been carefully examined
here, but I still think it essential to
raise this question in the Security Council.

The kidnapping has aroused strong feeling
here, in ~~Parliament~~ the House of Commons
as well as among the public, and this
should be reflected in the tone of your
statement, which I hope you will be able
to make on Monday.

2. It now seems reasonably certain
that the men have been handed over to
Haganah and taken to "Israeli" territory.

You should

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You should still make the point, however, that the Jewish leaders do not appear to be in control of important elements in the community. And you should conclude, as suggested in my telegram under reference, by supporting the Truce Commission's demand for the surrender of the men to them.

3. ~~For your information,~~ you should know that we are taking the following action in case surrender to the Truce Commission is refused:

(a) informing the Jewish authorities that we cannot recognise the right of any court established by them to try British subjects, and that deportation would therefore be a more proper course.

(b) assisting the Jerusalem Electric Corporation to obtain legal advice for the men if the Jewish authorities nevertheless insist on a trial.

H.B. 189
17

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DIPLOMATIC DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations).

No. 5085
18th July, 1948

D. 2.10. p.m. 18th July, 1948.

Repeated to Washington No. 7945; Jerusalem No. 480;
Haifa No. 100 Saving.

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to United Kingdom Delegation New York telegram No. 5085 of 18th July, repeated for information to Washington, Jerusalem and Saving to Haifa.

My telegram No. 305^F [of 16th July: British subjects kidnapped in Jerusalem].

The considerations you put to Beeley by telephone have been carefully examined here, but I still think it essential to raise this question in the Security Council, since pressure on the Jewish representative there seems likely to be our best means of influencing the Jewish authorities in Palestine to surrender the men. The kidnapping has aroused strong feeling here, in the House of Commons as well as among the public, and this should be reflected in the tone of your statement, which I hope you will be able to make on Monday.

2. It now seems reasonably certain that the men have been handed over to Haganah and taken to "Israeli" territory. You should still make the point, however, that the Jewish leaders do not appear to be in control of important elements in the community. And you should conclude as suggested in my telegram under reference, by supporting the Truce Commission's demand for the surrender of the men to them.

5. You should know that we are taking the following action in case surrender to the Truce Commission is refused:

(a) Informing the Jewish authorities that we cannot recognise the right of any court established by them to try British subjects, and that deportation would therefore be a more proper course.

(b) Assisting the Jerusalem Electric Corporation to obtain legal advice for the men if the Jewish authorities nevertheless insist on a trial.

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154

PALESTINE

9498

14 JUL 1948

Registry Number } E9498/1260/31

TELEGRAM FROM
JERUSALEM (Acting Consul
No. 266 General)

Dated 15 Jul 48

Received in Registry } 14 Jul 48

Motives underlying the capture of the 5 British subjects, and a report on the present situation.

Refers to Jerusalem telegram 265 (E9498/1260/31). Considers it possible that the object of I.Z.L. in wishing to bring the five men to trial may be to stage a "Moscow trial" to unmask British policy. Arguments may be used which would impress an undiscerning public and it is therefore almost imperative that a capable British lawyer be engaged to mercilessly expose irrelevancies. Enquiries are proceeding with Dr Joseph regarding the handing-over of the men to Haganah, but too much pressure is not being exerted until the handing-over has been effected.

Last Paper.

E 9479

(Minutes.)

Lawrence 14:00

Tel to Jerusalem

References.

Dalfour 15/7

x SB 21/7

(Print.)

See within:-

Extract (Jerusalem Telegraph Agency Bulletin 164) of 12/7.
9.26.48

(How disposed of.)

3) Palestine dist July 14
Copied into V. West & J. West
sent to Jerusalem 15/7 July 15
3) Palestine dist + no V. West (K. D. P.)
and no West (J. D. P.)
July 14

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

5079

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

E 9620

11.5.48 F.V.

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9498

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DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Acting British Consul General
No. 286.

D: 4.20.p.m. July 13th, 1948.

July 13th, 1948.

R: 5.44.p.m. July 13th, 1948.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

TOP SECRET.

My immediately preceding telegram.

Five abducted men. While I do not exclude the possibility that men were engaged in espionage for Arabs, I should not be surprised if one of the objects of I.Z.L. in wishing to bring them to trial were to stage a "Moscow trial" involving this Consulate with a view to "unmasking British policy" by showing that His Majesty's Government are actively helping Arabs with intelligence and thus opposing the United Nations Organisation's Palestine policy.

2. A "revelation" of this sort might be welcome to Jewish propaganda, such is their present suspicion of British motives that they may well be busily engaged in reading into insignificant coincidences some significant pattern. Given Slav background the Jews state, a trial may well be based on pronouncements by the prosecution and even the judges supported by "confessions" and circumstantial evidence enough to impress an undiscerning public e.g. in America. These factors will make it the more necessary for the defence to have a capable British Jewish lawyer who can mercilessly expose irrelevancies.

3. I am keeping in very frequent touch with the Jewish Agency but have hitherto refrained from using very strong language or subjecting them to great pressure lest their willingness to obtain custody of the five men be thereby diminished and chances of their being handed over by I.Z.L. prejudiced. Their transfer to Haganah is in my view a vital preliminary step and when the men are in the hands of the agency we can then increase pressure on the latter. I trust that you agree to this tactic.

4. At my instigation however the Truce Commission have addressed a sharply [? omission] note to Dr. Joseph stating that if the men are not released by I.Z.L. today July 13th, they will report to Security Council the inability of the Jewish authorities to maintain law and order in Jerusalem. Dr. Joseph has informed me that he has now received a "definite promise" from I.Z.L. that they will be handed over.

5. Since drafting the above I have received your telegram No. 418 and hope the foregoing will give you some material for a reply. Should there be further developments before noon on Wednesday, I will inform you. For reasons given in paragraph 3 above, I am not sure that it would not be premature to approach Asher Levitsky. I believe he has some connexion with I.Z.L. which may make it undesirable in any case but I will take advice and telegraph you further.

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Telegram to: -

Jerusalem

No. 457

(Date) *July 15*

Repeat to: -

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

~~Encl.~~

~~Cover~~

Cypher.

Distribution: -

Departmental

R. Bealey 15/7

M. H. Wright

RECORDED IN O.B. 7
17 JUL 1948

CYPHER

156

(Date) *16/7/48*
Despatched *3-10 A.M.*

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

[Security classification] *SECRET*
-if any

Addressed to *JERUSALEM*

telegram No. (date)

repeated for information to

Your telegram No. 266 [of 13th July :
Trial of 5 Britons].

We have informed Jerusalem Electric Corporation of your doubts regarding Levitsky. As alternative they propose Abraham Levin, partner of S. Horowitz and Company, Barristers (address : Tancred Lane, Jerusalem. P.O.B. 393). Grateful for your considered views regarding both.

2. Would either have physical means of reaching Tel Aviv should a trial be held there? If not, someone in Haifa or Tel Aviv may have to be briefed.

3. We entirely agree it would be preferable to engage an able Jewish barrister from the U.K. Steps are being taken here to brief Mr. Richard Levy, a K.C. with a high reputation for ability and integrity, who has expressed willingness to undertake the defence and could go out at short notice. But we consider it prudent to have a local man available also in case of unforeseen obstacles. Serious possibility of his intimidation by I. Z. L. has not escaped us and we realise he must be very carefully chosen. Have you any suggestions?

4./

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W. 34582/152 50.000 12.47 A.S. E.W.Ltd. Gp. 685

755

4. The ^{general} question was raised this morning by GOLDMANN Goldmann, with whom we have informal contacts as representative in London of the Jewish authorities. (We had ^{not} not taken the initiative in discussions with Goldmann on this subject, because we cannot recognise that his writ, for what it is worth, extends to Jerusalem.) Goldmann said he was sure that Bryant was innocent, but that the other four men were ex-policemen recently recruited by the company, and he could not express the same confidence in relation to them. Moreover, he was informed that a wireless transmitter had been found in their building. (The source of this information may be the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, whose bulletin contains ^a similar statements.) In the course of ^{the} conversation Goldmann was told that we could not recognise the jurisdiction of any Jewish court over British subjects. He then volunteered the suggestion that the best conclusion to the affair might be the deportation of the five men from Palestine. We agreed that this would be far better than staging a trial.

J.K.
15.7.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Cypher/OTP

E

SECRET

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO JERUSALEM

No. 457

15th July, 1948.

D. 3.10 a.m. 16th July, 1948

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Your telegram No. 266 [of 13th July: Trial of 5 Britons].

We have informed Jerusalem Electric Corporation of your doubts regarding Levitsky. As alternative they propose Abraham Levin, partner of S. Horowitz and Company, Barristers (address: Tancred Lane, Jerusalem, P.O. B.395). Grateful for your considered views regarding both.

2. Would either have physical means of reaching Tel Aviv should a trial be held there? If not, someone in Haifa or Tel Aviv may have to be briefed.

3. We entirely agree it would be preferable to engage an able Jewish barrister from the United Kingdom. Steps are being taken here to brief Mr. Richard Levy, a K.C. with a high reputation for ability and integrity, who has expressed willingness to undertake the defence and could go out at short notice. But we consider it prudent to have a local man available also in case of unforeseen obstacles. Serious possibility of his intimidation by I.Z.L. has not escaped us and we realise he must be very carefully chosen. Have you any suggestions?

4. The general question was raised this morning by Goldmann, with whom we have informal contacts as representative in London of the Jewish authorities. (We had not taken the initiative in discussions with Goldmann on this subject, because we cannot recognise that his writ, for what it is worth, extends to Jerusalem). Goldmann said he was sure that Bryant was innocent, but that the other four men were ex-policemen recently recruited by the company, and he could not express the same confidence in relation to them. Moreover, he was informed that a wireless transmitter had been found in their building. (The source of this information may be the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, whose bulletin contains a similar statement). In the course of the conversation Goldmann was told that we could not recognise the jurisdiction of any Jewish court over British subjects. He then volunteered the suggestion that the best conclusion to the affair might be the deportation of the five men from Palestine. We agreed that this would be far better than staging a trial.

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JTA Bulletin No 164 (18/7/48)

Captured Briton Admits Participation In Ben Yehuda Street Bombing.

Tel Aviv, July 16th

Reference to the five British subjects who were kidnapped by the Irgun was made for the first time in an Irgun broadcast last night.

"They disclosed to the Arabs Jewish artillery and mortar positions and we have enough evidence against them," the broadcast asserted. It added that a secret code of "the British intelligence working for the Arabs" was discovered.

"One of the arrested, a former British police sergeant," the broadcast said, "admits that he participated in the Ben Yehuda Street explosion last February and disclosed the names of other participants.

"The Britishers were not tortured and not even subjected to third-degree methods, but evidence against them is such that they had to admit their guilt.

"Some officials of certain consulates in Jerusalem are also involved in this case which cost many Jewish lives, as the ring advised the Arabs as to where the Jews were meeting and the Arabs thereupon shelled accurately.

"Only one Britisher was slightly wounded in the leg because he tried to escape," the broadcast concluded.

p.w.

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and given up to the Irgun

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ready Jews.

The decree fulfils one of the chief demands of Rumanian Jewry since the liberation. It is expected that the measure will have its greatest effect in Northern Transylvania from which practically the entire Jewish population was deported to Nazi death camps in 1944.

ANTI-ZIONIST TRENDS APPEARING IN TWO RUMANIAN POLITICAL PARTIES WITH JEWISH FOLLOWING.

Bucharest, July 16th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Anti-Zionist trends have recently come to the surface in two popular Rumanian political parties with a large membership among the Jewish population.

At the latest meeting of the central committee of the National Popular Party Dr. Constantin Dimitriu, Secretary-General of the party, warned the Jewish members "not to fall for propaganda which is attempting to appeal to their nationalist feelings for a noisy recrudescence of Zionism." Dr. Dimitriu added that the only solution for the Jews of Rumania lies in co-operating with the entire working class of the country. This statement followed a resolution adopted by the Rumanian Workers Party which committed party members to "fighting energetically the nationalist-reactionary tendency among the Jewish population."

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E 9639 159

1948

PALESTINE

1948

16 JUL 1948

Registry Number | E9639/1260/31.

TELEGRAM FROM Acting Consul General, JERUSALEM.

No. 268

Dated Secret. 13.7.48

Received in Registry | 16.7.48

The briefing of ASHER LEVITSKY to handle the case of the five arrested British subjects in Jerusalem.

Refers to para. 5. of Jerusalem telegram No. 266 of 13th. July (E9498/1260/31).

The Palestine Government suspected Levitsky of being connected with the Irgun Zvai Leumi, and, according to a British journalist, he has come out as an avowed supporter of I. Z. L. Considered unwise to brief him to handle the case; it is urged that a British Jewish barrister be chosen.

Last Paper.

E 9620

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 Palestine Dist. (WCE 9611) 17 July
copy to Mr Nibest (K Dept)
Mr Cox (T. Dept)
19 July.

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

19/7/48

19/7/48

Next Paper.

E 1643

(Minutes.)

James Phythell. 17:11

I have informed Mr Shaver of the Electric Corporation, by phone. It is of course possible that Levitsky, ~~as~~ as second string, might prove a useful person in that he might be able to influence Irgun in favour of the 5 Britons. But he would certainly not do as principal counsel for the Refuge. The Corporation's lawyers (Stangor & May) will discuss with Mr Levy.

D. Phythell

17/7

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9639 E 160

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Acting British Consul General
No. 268 D. 1.56 p.m. 14th July, 1948
15th July, 1948. R. 4.05 p.m. 14th July, 1948

SECRET

Paragraph 5 of my telegram No. 266.

Sheringham tells me that Palestine Government suspected Asher Levitsky of being connected with I.Z.L., whose men he frequently defended before military courts. A British journalist has told Sheringham that since the end of the Mandate, Levitsky has come out as an avowed supporter of I.Z.L. He is now in official uniform in Jewish Agency as a liaison officer although still practise [? gp. omitted] as a lawyer. I therefore think that it would be most unwise to brief him to handle the case and still urge that the best course would be to choose analogous eminent British Jewish barrister who would be unamenable to pressure which might come from any section in Palestine. He would need an assistant who knew Hebrew and who would probably have to be a Palestinian lawyer. I am not in a position to suggest one at the moment; the accused might be able to do so.

[Copy sent to M.E. Secretariat].

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161

PALESTINE

E 9643

17 JUL 1948

Registry Number E9643/1260/31

TELEGRAM FROM JERUSALEM (Acting Consul General) No. 280

Dated 16 Jul 48

Received in Registry 17 Jul 48

Report that five captured British subjects have been handed over to Haganah.

Refers to Jerusalem telegram 266 (E9498/1260/31). Dr Bernard Joseph has informed a member of staff of Consulate-General, Jerusalem that the five men were handed over on 16 Jul to the "armed Forces of the State of Israel" (i.e. Haganah) and that they are being conveyed to Tel Aviv.

Assurance has been given that they will receive all proper facilities as regards legal aid.

Last Paper.

E9639

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

3 Palestine dist July 27 (uk E9641) before to the V. Dept - T Dept 19 July.

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E 9680

(Minutes.)

This morning's Times says that I.C.L. have refused to hand them over.

Lawrence 17. vii.

Yes, but no other paper agrees. The remainder say, if anything, that Inyan announced in Tel Aviv on July 16th that the 5 "are being" or "will be" handed over to Haganah. The graphic (whose correspondent I'm (Inyan), though not mentioned, is the available source, - and he has throughout been active in this affair in Jerusalem) is among these papers and adds that Inyan took the decision after Inyan "had promised the suspects will be brought to public trial". We must still reserve judgment, but it does look as though the transfer will come off. Dr Joseph in this tel. says that it had already taken place in Jerusalem on the afternoon of the 15th.

NACB 20/7 News Dept

D.B.

17/7

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9643 167

EN CLAIR

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Acting British Consul General
No. 280.

July 16th, 1948.

D. 3.50.p.m. July 16th, 1948.

R. 5.12.p.m. July 16th, 1948.

Repeated to U.K. Del New York No. 58 Important
Haifa No. 34 Important.

MOST IMMEDIATE

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 280 of July 16th,
repeated for information Important to United Kingdom Delegation
New York and Important to Haifa.

My telegram No. 266. 1498/1260

Five abducted British subjects.

Dr. Bernard Joseph has just informed member of my staff
that men have this afternoon been handed over to "armed forces
of State of Israel" (i.e. Hagannah) and that they are being
conveyed to Tel Aviv.

2. I have asked him that we should be enabled to provide
them with legal aid and he assured me that they should receive
all proper facilities.

Foreign Office please pass to United Kingdom Delegation
as my telegram No. 58.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York].

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

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1948

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PALESTINE

E 3086

163

19 JUL 48

Registry Number } E9686/1260/31

FROM F.O. Minute
(Mr Evans)

No.

Dated 12 Jul 48

Received in Registry } 19 Jul 48

Legal aspects of the trial of the 5 captured British subjects by the "State of Israel" when that State has not been accorded recognition by His Majesty's Government.

Last Paper

2643

(Minutes.)

Lf. 20: vii

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

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10/7/48

Next Paper

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RECEIVED IN O.B.
16 JUL 1948
8 1/2 x 11 D. B. L. F.
19 JUL 1948

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Minutes. 164 9686 (Entire)

I understand that the five British subjects were kidnapped by Jewish terrorists from a building under the protection of the U. N. Truce Commission in a part of Jerusalem occupied by the Jews. They are probably charged with espionage.

The first point is that, as we have accorded no recognition to Israel, we cannot recognize any tribunal established by the Government of Israel or its force as having any authority to try a British subject.

If the men had been captured as a result of a Jewish raid in Arab territory I think we could have claimed that this was an exercise of belligerent rights in contravention of the truce. But, if my understanding of the facts is correct, the capture took place in territory occupied by the Jews. Had the men been arrested by the Israeli ^{not in a building under UN protection} authorities and if we had recognized Israel and accorded her belligerent rights I think the arrest, assuming it to have been made on reasonable suspicion that the men had committed espionage, would have been legitimate. The capture was in our view illegitimate because it was carried out by terrorists having no legal authority and the detention of the men by the Israeli authorities is illegitimate because we have given those authorities no official recognition and have not

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accorded full and complete rights to them.

Article 105 of the U.N. Charter provides that "The Organization shall enjoy in the territories of each of its Members such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the fulfilment of its purposes." Article II Section 3 of the General Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the U.N. approved by the ~~U.N.~~ ^{General Assembly} for accession by all Members provide that "The premises of the United Nations shall be inviolable. The property and assets of the United Nations, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation and any other form of interference, whether by executive, administrative, judicial or legislative action." Although Israel is not a Member of U.N.O. and therefore has no legal obligation to grant these immunities to the Organization, it might justly be claimed that having accepted the Intermediate Commission she is under a strong moral obligation to ensure that the Organization and its representatives are accorded those privileges and immunities in Israeli territory to which they would be entitled in the territories of Member States. The capture of the men is therefore an act which the Israeli authorities should condemn and for which they can only properly make amends by surrendering the men.

I see no reason why the Corporation should not brief a lawyer to defend

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^{Minutes.}
their employees. This would in no way
prejudice H D G's relationship with the
Israeli Government. The defence
presumably will start with a motion
that the Court has no jurisdiction.

W. G. Evans
12/7

Tel. sent to New York.

(= No 3055 of 16/7 - see also No 3083
of 18/7 at E 9479/1260/51)

H.B. 16/7

D.B.
21/7

165 END

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